

Gromyko says U.S. not serious

MOSCOW (R) — Soviet President Andrei Gromyko accused the United States on Monday of not being serious about wanting improved Soviet-U.S. ties, the news agency RIA Novosti said. "We have done everything possible for normal relations between the Soviet Union and the United States. We have made concrete proposals on this score, but in reply all sorts of manoeuvres are being undertaken to avoid solving burning issues," Mr. Gromyko said. "All this shows that at present the American administration does not have serious intentions of searching for accords."

Mr. Gromyko was speaking during talks in the Kremlin with the new U.S. ambassador to the Soviet Union, Jack Matlock, who had presented his credentials. Embassy officials did not comment on the 30-minute conversation between Mr. Gromyko and Mr. Matlock, but said both sides had declared the intention to work for improved relations. (See page 8).

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation
جوردان تايمز يومية مستقلة عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية (الراي)

Iraq reports 6 raids on Iran

NICOSIA (AP) — Iraq said its warplanes bombed vital Iranian oil installations in six air raids on Monday, in a fresh escalation designed to choke Iran's oil-based economy and force Tehran to accept a compromise in the 6½-year-old Gulf war. The Iraqi News Agency (INA) quoted a military communique as saying the bombed targets were an oil pipeline junction at Ganaveh, three boats in the Nowruz oilfield, a platform in the Syrus oilfield and three platforms in the Ardeshr oilfield. Nowruz, Syrus and Ardeshr are offshore oilfields in the northern part of the Gulf. The Ganaveh terminal is onshore opposite Kharg Island. It pumps crude oil from southern Iranian oilfields through a marine pipeline to export facilities on Kharg. INA said all the targets received "direct and effective hits" and were "gutted by explosions and turned into wreckage." Iraq said all the jets that participated in the air raids between 09:00-11:09 a.m. returned safely to their bases.

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Community college girl killed in accident

AMMAN (J.T.) — A community college girl student was killed on Monday in a car accident near the Andalus Community College. The car driver, an unlicensed boy was heading from the Prince Rashid Housing Estate to the Eighth Circle via the community college road when he faced another car coming from the right, Jordan Television said. The boy took a wrong overtaking and he was speeding he lost control over the car, which hit the girl and overturned six times, the television said.

Turkey sends second ship to Aegean

CANAKKALE, Turkey (AP) — Turkey on Monday sent a second research ship to the Turkish territorial waters of the Aegean sea for oil exploration, the semi-official Anatolia news agency reported. The Bilim, which belongs to the Middle East Technical University in Ankara, carried a crew of seven researchers who will conduct seismic tests for four days. Turkey ordered another research ship, the Sismik-1, to the high seas of the Aegean for oil exploration 10 days ago, but it halted in Turkish territorial waters after Turkey and Greece exchanged threats of military action. At that time, Turkey said the ship would remain in Turkish waters if Greece also confirmed its oil exploration to its territorial waters.

Rafsanjani offers ties with U.S.

NICOSIA (AP) — The speaker of the Iranian parliament, Hashemi Rafsanjani, said Monday that Iran was ready to normalise relations with the United States if Washington no longer threatened the fundamentalist regime of Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini. The Islamic Republic News Agency, monitored in Nicosia, also quoted Mr. Rafsanjani as reiterating Iran's promise to help secure the release of American hostages held by pro-Iranian Lebanese extremists (See related on page 2). IRNA quoted Mr. Rafsanjani as saying that Tehran would resume relations with Washington "as soon as we make sure the U.S. no longer poses a threat to the Islamic revolution." He did not elaborate. The Iranian leadership has in recent months made several suggestions of possibilities of normalising ties with the United States. Mr. Rafsanjani also said that the 6½-year-old Iran-Iraq war could end if the superpowers "make some changes" in Iraq's leadership. One of Iran's conditions for an end to the war is the overthrow of the Iraqi government.

Israelis flee U.S. subpoenas

TEL AVIV (AP) — Three key Israelis involved in Iranian arms deals left the United States in a hurry last month to avoid being detained for questioning, an Israeli newspaper reported Monday. The three are a former foreign ministry director-general, David Kimche, and businessmen Yacov Nimrodi and Al Schwimmer, the tabloid Hadashot said. It said the Justice Department decided in late March to issue subpoenas against all Israelis involved in the affair who were in the United States on April 1.

King begins Belgian visit after voicing hopes for success of int'l conference

Combined agency dispatches

BRUSSELS — His Majesty King Hussein arrived here Monday on a visit widely expected to give fresh momentum to the idea of an international conference on the Middle East under United Nations auspices.

The King, who arrived here from the Netherlands after talks with Dutch Premier Ruud Lubbers and Foreign Minister Hans van den Broek, is scheduled to hold talks with Belgian Prime Minister Wilfried Martens and Foreign Minister Leo Tindemans, current president of the European Community (EC) Council of Ministers, on Tuesday.

The King was received at Brussels airport by King Baudouin of Belgium. West European diplomats saw the King's visit to Belgium, which currently holds the rotating presidency of the EC, as the latest in a flurry of moves inside and outside the Middle East towards convening an international conference on the Middle East.

The King said before his departure from the Netherlands that he hoped international Middle East peace talks could succeed, a Dutch government spokesman said.

He quoted the King as telling a group of Dutch editors before leaving for Brussels that if a conference of all parties in the Middle East conflict was arranged, he was "full of hope" that it would be a success. The King said he was confident the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) would take part fully as a representative of the Palestinian people, the spokesman said.

spokesman said.

"The positions of us and Syrians are almost identical" on the conditions for holding a conference," the King told reporters.

The King's talks with the Dutch leaders also covered Dutch support for Jordan's five-year development scheme for the occupied territories, the Jordan News Agency, Petra, said.

In an interview with the Dutch Television, King Hussein said the positive European contribution to Mideast peace efforts was launched when the EC issued the 1980 June Venice Declaration. The declaration was supplemented by recent EC endorsement of the idea of an international peace conference, the King said and expressed hope that the European role would contribute to establishing a just and durable peace in the Middle East.

The King said obstacles in the path towards an international conference would be overcome when the five permanent member states of the U.N. Security Council and Israel accept the idea.

Rifai and Masri meet Murphy

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — Prime Minister Zaid Rifai and Foreign Minister Taher Al Masri opened talks with U.S. officials on Monday on prospects for a Mideast peace conference.

Mr. Rifai and Mr. Masri met at their hotel with Assistant Secretary of State Richard W. Murphy and were scheduled to meet later with Mr. Peter McPherson, the administration of the U.S. Agency for International Development to discuss increased U.S. aid to Jordan and the occupied territories.

Mr. Rifai and Mr. Masri also were expected to discuss U.S. military and economic aid to Jordan, which amounts to \$55 million this year. The administration has asked Congress for \$71 million for 1988.

The United States has a separate aid programme for the Palestinians who live in the West Bank. Assistance for the last two years totalled \$12 million. Israel was asked to temporarily divert \$30 million in U.S. aid for construction projects, but declined.

Arab League welcomes EC role in Mideast peace efforts

Syria and Libya endorse Tunis-statement backing Iraq and calling on Iran to accept ceasefire terms

TUNIS (R) — Arab League foreign ministers ended a three-day meeting Monday at which they welcomed European Community (EC) willingness to play a role in a Middle East peace conference, despite some Syrian misgivings.

Syria, while expressing anger at EC sanctions imposed against Damascus in November for alleged involvement in terrorism, said it and other Arab states at the meeting welcomed as a positive step an EC declaration six weeks ago calling for a peace conference.

It also welcomed a stated West European readiness to play a role in such a conference, but said points in the EC declaration needed further study, Syrian Foreign Minister Farouq Al Sharaa told reporters. Mr. Sharaa said foreign ministers of the Arab League agreed to

make cancellation of British-led EC sanctions a condition of resuming a West European-Arab dialogue.

But he made a clear distinction between Syria's positive response to the EC statement on the peace conference and other Euro-Arab contacts.

"This is a position, a political position, when it comes to the international conference," Mr. Sharaa said. "We welcome any country or any community which might support the convening of an international conference."

Asked if there would be any meetings involving Arabs and West Europeans until the sanctions were lifted, he said:

"There will be no meetings of significance between the two communities, the Arabs and the Europeans, as long as these measures remain in force."

Supplies enter Shatila despite truce violation

BEIRUT (Agencies) — A convoy of food supplies donated by Kuwait rumbled into the hunger-stricken Shatila refugee camp on Monday despite sniper fire that strained a truce in the 23-month-old war for control of Palestinian shantytowns.

The convoy of five trucks carrying 40 tonnes of rice, oil, sugar, tea, flour, blankets and clothes was escorted into the bomb-battered camp by Syrian military observers and Kuwaiti officials at 1:30 p.m.

Heavy sniping engulfed Shatila and the suburban Bourj Al Barajneh refugee camp at mid-morning, impeding a ceasefire called at 8 a.m. under Syria's auspices to end the camps war between Shi'ite Amal militiamen and Palestinians.

But Syrian observers convened

another meeting between Amal and Palestinian officials to reinstate the truce and allow food supplies to enter Shatila, whose 5,000 population have starved because of a continuous five-month Amal siege.

Reporters watching Shatila's entrance said the guns fell silent as the convoy went in and began unloading.

Amal militia commanders and Palestinians blamed each other for the ceasefire violation.

The new peace accord was announced after a meeting in west Beirut Sunday evening between commanders of Justice Minister Nabih Berri's mainstream Amal militia and representatives of the Palestine National Salvation Front (PNSF), an alliance of six pro-Syrian Palestinian factions.

Largely symbolic EC sanctions, including a ban on arms sales and restrictions on diplomatic activity, were imposed after a British court implicated Syria in an alleged plot to blow up an Israeli airliner in Britain a year ago.

No final communiqué was issued immediately, but a Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) official said ministers reaffirmed support for an international peace conference under United Nations auspices in another resolution adopted unanimously.

The resolution said the conference should be "with the participation of all permanent members of the United Nations Security Council, including the PLO on an equal footing with other parties on the basis of United Nations resolutions relevant to the question of Palestine and the Middle East question."

For the first time since the Iran-Iraq war began in 1980, Syria and Libya, which have sided with Iran in the conflict, supported a resolution supporting Iraq and calling on Iran to accept ceasefire terms.

Libya has publicly toned down support for Tehran in recent statements.

Conference sources said the moderate wording of the resolution, which included no explicit condemnation of Iran, was partly at the insistence of Saudi Arabia.

Saudi Foreign Minister Saud Al Faisal took over the rotating chairmanship of the Arab League Council at the start of the six-monthly foreign ministers meeting.

In another resolution on the long-running "camps war" in Lebanon, the ministers charged Prince Saud and Algerian Foreign Minister Ahmad Taleb Ibrahim with a mission to Damascus to try to arrange an end to the conflict and ensure essential supplies to beleaguered Palestinian refugee camps, Arab diplomatic sources said.

King urges China to help Gulf peace efforts

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Majesty King Hussein has urged China to back Arab and international efforts to halt the Iraq-Iran war, now in its seventh year.

The King made the appeal in a message to Chinese President Li Xianmin marking the 10th anniversary of diplomatic relations between Jordan and China.

The Jordan News Agency, Petra, said the King asked China to continue using its "weight in international spheres to put pressure on Iran to respond to peace calls and to stop its aggression on Iraq."

King Hussein also said China's support for a proposed international Middle East peace conference with other permanent members of the U.N. Security Council would be appreciated and yield positive results.

In his cable, King Hussein expressed satisfaction at the de-



King Hussein of Jordan.



Li Xianmin.

velopment of Jordanian-Chinese relations "which are progressing continuously for the interests of both peoples."

The King said: "My visit to your country and your visit to Jordan three years ago contri-

buted significantly to bolstering these relations, which constitute an extension of the strong friendly relations that have always existed between the Chinese and Arab nations throughout history."

King Hussein praised China's firm position vis-a-vis Arab causes, particularly the Palestinian question and stressed the importance of holding an international peace conference to be attended by the five permanent member states of the United Nations Security Council and all parties involved. The King said: "The conference is the right forum where a solution to the Arab-Israeli conflict can be reached."

China's support in this regard will have constructive results, which will receive the due appreciation and respect, the King said.

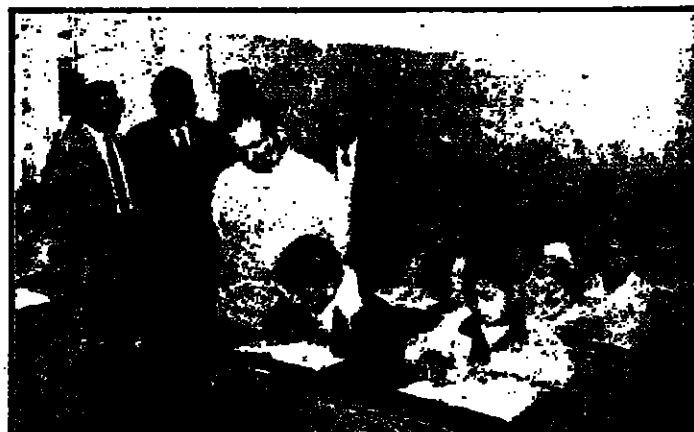
The King also expressed hope that China would continue to play an active role to achieve world peace and justice, thus paving the way towards achieving a balanced international economic and political system.

Regent: Need of the day is a reformulated education system

KARAK (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, said Monday that Jordan was passing through a transitional period and should adapt its socio-economic situation to suit the requirements of this decade and the next two decades.

Addressing educationalists in Karak governorate and Qasr and South Mazar districts, Prince Hassan said the decades which followed the establishment of the Kingdom were decades of "confrontation, challenge, construction and development." The 1950 saw the formulation of a rural education development concept while economic activities centred around cities, he said. The 1960s saw the focus being shifted to the concept of building large cities, he said.

Jordan has overcome the effects of the war in the 1970s and managed to cope with the major changes in the patterns of social and economic life in the 1980s, said the Regent. "The major challenge facing us now is the formulation of a clear-cut and integrated concept for the educational sector. This concept should focus on the emphasis from quantitative to qualitative education," he said. "Such a shift requires that we reconsider the use of human resources, taking into account the



His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, visits a school in Karak Governorate on Monday (Petra photo).

major challenges facing us, i.e. the citizen and the land."

The Regent said the educational process was a "national priority whose responsibility should not be shouldered solely by the Ministry of Education, but also by all parties concerned." The Crown Prince called for intensified efforts to provide the general school and the integrated activity which could be achieved through public participation and mutual cooperation and involvement of local communities.

Minister of Education Thaqan Al Hindawi, who accompa-

nied Prince Hassan on his visit, said the Education Council has decided, at the directives of Crown Prince Hassan, to form field task forces in every governorate and district. The task force, Mr. Hindawi said, will be entrusted with reviewing textbooks and curricula and preparing recommendations.

Prince Hassan started his tour to Karak governorate by visits to various institutions including the Hazza Al Majali Secondary School, the Omar Ibn Al Khattab Preparatory School and the Karak Secondary Girls School.

PLO plans 'new framework' for relations with Jordan

KUWAIT (R) — A Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) official said in remarks published on Monday the Feb. 11, 1985, Jordan-PLO peace accord would be replaced by a new framework for relations with Jordan.

Hanni Al-Hassan, political adviser to PLO leader Yasser Arafat, told the Kuwaiti daily Al Anba the joint accord would be formally scrapped at a meeting of the Palestine National Council (PNC) now being organised to be held on April 20 in Algiers.

"We are in a new stage in which the Jordanian-Palestinian agreement has become outdated and therefore we are going to cancel that accord," he said.

Jordan, accusing the leadership of the PLO of lacking credibility, suspended political coordination with the organisation after a year-long effort towards convening an international conference on the Middle East under U.N. auspices. However, it also said that the principles contained in the Feb. 11 accord continue to govern Jordanian-Palestinian relations.

Mr. Hassan said the best solution to the problem of Palestinian representation at any international Middle East peace conference would be a joint delegation.

It was hoped this would include representatives of the PLO, Jordan, Syria, Egypt and perhaps Lebanon, he said.

He said the PLO, which has long been at odds with Syria, would welcome better relations with Damascus.

Outgoing Saudi ambassador praises ties with Jordan

AMMAN (J.T.) — Saudi Ambassador to Jordan Ibrahim Al Sultan on Monday praised Jordanian-Saudi relations, describing them as unique and excellent.

In a statement to the Arabic daily newspaper Al Rai, on the occasion of the end of his term in office in Jordan, Mr. Sultan said foundations of the strong and unique relations between the two countries had been laid down by the late King Abdul Aziz Al Saud, founder of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, and the late King Abdullah Ibn Al Hussein, founder of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan.

Mr. Sultan said His Majesty King Hussein and King Fahd of Saudi Arabia maintain brotherly and personal relations which have always been reflected in the continuous meetings between the two leaders.

On the Saudi role in settling inter-Arab differences, Mr. Sultan said Saudi Arabia had always attempted to achieve solidarity among Arabs and Muslims and had therefore mediated among Arab countries to solve their disputes.

Mr. Sultan said King Fahd had always been keen on holding Arab summit conferences and called for making the necessary arrangements in order to make the next summit, due to be held in Riyadh, a success.

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Peres reportedly seeking Spanish support

MADRID (Agencies) — Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres met on Monday with King Juan Carlos and Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez during a two-day official visit to Spain during which he reportedly sought Spain's backing for an international conference on the Middle East.

After early morning talks with his Spanish counterpart Francisco Fernandez Ordóñez, Mr. Peres was received by King Juan Carlos.

Observers remarked that the one-hour meeting with the king was unusually long for what is generally regarded as a protocol appointment.

Unconfirmed reports suggested King Juan Carlos was to meet later in the week with Saudi King Fahd, a personal friend who has a home in Marbella, to pass on Mr. Peres' comments about the peace conference.

After his meeting with Mr. Fernandez Ordóñez, Mr. Peres told reporters Spain could play an

important role in an eventual Middle East peace conference.

Spanish officials have limited themselves to saying Spain is willing to participate in such a conference but have played down the suggestion that Spain would play a key role in its organisation.

Mr. Peres' visit is the first to Spain by a high-ranking Israeli official since the two countries established diplomatic relations on Jan. 17 last year.

Mr. Peres continued discussions with Mr. Gonzalez during a luncheon.

Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir, leader of the right-wing Likud Bloc, touched off a political row in his cabinet on Sunday by saying that he hoped his foreign minister in the coalition government would fail in his mission to enlist Spanish support for a peace conference.

Spain has traditionally enjoyed close links with the Arab World and it established diplomatic relations with Israel only last year.

Madrid has taken a special interest in the European Community's Middle East peace efforts since it joined the community at the start of 1986 and Mr. Peres said before his trip that it could have a role to play if it was even-handed.

In a press conference later Monday, Mr. Peres said the future of his country's government was in question if attempts were made to stop the process towards peace via an international conference on the Middle East.

Commenting on the future of the government following the remark made over the weekend by Mr. Shamir that he hoped Mr. Peres would fail in his European initiative to seek support for such a conference, Mr. Peres replied:

"It depends very much if the peace process can be continued. It's one thing to express a hope or a hope for a lack of hope. It's another thing to stop the peace process."

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Millions of Egyptians vote for parliament

CAIRO (R) — Millions of Egyptians voted Monday for a new parliament certain to be dominated by President Hosni Mubarak's National Democratic Party (NDP).

The only reported trouble came in a village north of Cairo where police sources said opposition party workers exchanged gunfire with police.

The sources said there were no casualties in the incident involving workers for the Islamist Progressive Party (UPP), one of five opposition parties running for seats in the People's Assembly.

Voters in the most populous Arab country thronged to 21,000 polling stations to elect 448 new legislators. First results were expected Tuesday and an overall assessment by Thursday.

Mr. Mubarak, 58, called the election after having the assembly dissolved in February, a year ahead of schedule, following court challenges to its constitutionality.

His own post, which he has held since Muslim extremists shot dead President Anwar Sadat in 1981, was not at stake in the election. But the new assembly will be asked to nominate him for a second term in office starting next October.

Iranian official says U.S. arms will help hostages

NEW YORK (Agencies) — A senior Iranian defence official says Iran would help get the release of American hostages being held in Lebanon if the United States handed over arms Iran has already paid for, according to Newsweek.

Asked what could be done to improve relations, Kamal Kharazi, a member of Iran's supreme defence council, was quoted as saying in a London interview: "To begin with, they should release the arms and spare parts Iran has already paid for and that have been held since the time of the Shah."

He was asked, "Would that help persuade you to try to get back American hostages?" "Yes, but it all depends on whether the Americans start to take such steps and how fast they

take them. We don't have to do very much, we just have to use our influence," Mr. Kharazi was quoted as replying. The interview appeared in the latest issue of Newsweek.

Mr. Kharazi said it was not Iran's fault the Americans were being held.

Iran's ambassador to Moscow charged in an interview Sunday that Washington was fomenting tension between Tehran and Moscow to improve its chances of reestablishing a presence in Iran.

"A major aim of Washington's Middle East policies is focused on preventing peaceful coexistence between Tehran and Moscow by creating tensions in Iranian-Soviet relations," Ambassador Naser Heirani Nobari was quoted as saying.

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"A major aim of Washington's Middle East policies is focused on preventing peaceful coexistence between Tehran and Moscow by creating tensions in Iranian-Soviet relations," Ambassador Naser Heirani Nobari was quoted as saying.

Tunisian premier in Morocco

RABAT (R) — Tunisian Prime Minister Rachid Sfar arrived Monday on an official visit, his first since taking office last July.

He will be received by King Hassan and have talks with his Moroccan counterpart, Azeddine Laraki, officials said.

The talks will cover the Middle East and North African affairs, Arab diplomats said.

They noted that Tunisia was the only North African country with which Rabat had cordial relations.

Sweden last week decided to give another special contribution to the UNRWA relief activities in the Palestinian camps in Lebanon, according to a statement issued by the Swedish embassy in Amman.

Nearly \$1 million was set aside for assistance to thousands of families who have been suffering greatly in the past months, the statement said. "The Swedish contribution will be used to buy medicines, transport food, water and medicine to the Bouja Ajl refugee camp, Rasheid and Shatila camps."

"Part of the contribution will add to support for the Augusta Victoria hospital in Jerusalem.

This hospital for Palestinians is run by the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA) and the Lutheran World Society," the embassy statement said.

In February the government decided to disburse part of the Swedish regular contribution for 1987 in advance to UNRWA. The advance payment amounts to \$40 million (\$6 million). The decision was made because of the difficulties UNRWA was facing at the beginning of its financial year, the statement said. During 1986 the regular Swedish contribution to UNRWA amounted to \$70 million (\$10 million), making Sweden is one of UNRWA's major donors.

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Mubarak clarifies demands for release of Libyan planes

CAIRO (R) — President Hosni Mubarak told Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi Monday to hand back three Egyptian Triptoli is holding if he wants Egypt to return two aircraft flown here by Libyan defectors.

Mr. Mubarak, speaking to reporters after voting in Egypt's parliamentary elections, said the three Egyptians were two soldiers and a nomad from a tribe in the western desert, close to the Libyan border.

This clarified his remarks on the issue last week, when the national Middle East News Agency (MENA) quoted him as demanding Libya return three Egyptians involved in the 1985 hijack of an Egyptian airliner.

Two Libyan aircraft, a C-130 transport aircraft and a Chinook helicopter, are still in Egypt after being flown here in separate incidents last month by eight Libyan airmen, at least five of whom sought and were granted political asylum.

"Take your planes provided that you bring the three Egyptians you are holding," MENA quoted Mr. Mubarak as saying Monday, referring to Col. Qadhafi.

"I do not like hijacking anybody's planes as he does... but I cannot turn back whoever wants asylum here. If he can persuade any of the fugitives to go back, then we do not patronise any one," he was reported as saying.

Egypt last week denied a report by Libya's National News Agency JANA that the trio had been sent by Cairo's intelligence service to spy and commit sabotage.

MENA reported that Mr. Mubarak had received a message from an exile Libyan alliance group in Cairo thanking him for giving political asylum to the Libyan officers.

Peres said a second condition for resumption of diplomatic relations severed by Moscow after the 1967 Middle East war, according to the daily Davar newspaper, which is close to Peres' left-leaning Labour Party.

A Foreign Ministry official qualified the Davar report later Monday. "Peres said 10,000 to 12,000 Jews a year is not enough for Soviet participation" in the conference, the official said, adding that he did not specifically mention the figures 30,000 to 40,000.

Davar quoted Peres as saying he believes the Soviets have already agreed to permit between 10,000 and 12,000 Jews to emigrate, but "the exodus of 30,000 to 40,000 a year is necessary as a first step" to improve relations between the two countries.

Peres' remarks were paraphrased and given in excerpts from an interview which is to be published in full on Friday.

Meanwhile nine Soviet Jewish immigrants arrived here Sunday evening, the daily Yediot Ahronot reported Monday.

Peres is currently on a five-day visit to Spain and Italy to advance the international conference idea, although it is a bone of contention in the coalition government.

Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir objects to linking Soviet Jewish emigration to such a conference for fear that "Soviet Jews would become hostages to Israel's foreign policy," a Shamir aide said.

The prime minister opposes holding a conference arguing that Israel would be outnumbered and would be pushed into making territorial concessions. He favours direct, one-on-one negotiations.

Shamir, head of the rival right-wing Likud Bloc, said on the eve of Peres' departure Sunday "I hope he won't succeed."

The Arab countries, the European Community and the United States have voiced support for such a conference.

Cabinet minister Moshe Arens, a close Shamir associate, reportedly demanded at Sunday's cabinet meeting that Israel allow a Soviet consular delegation to visit here only after two Jews, Yuli Edelstein and Alexei Magarik, are released from Soviet prisons, Davar said.

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Iran scandal 'could boost Mideast peace prospects'

By Michael Battye
Renter

WASHINGTON — A sharp drop in U.S. credibility in the Middle East resulting from the Iran arms scandal could help efforts to bring peace to the region, U.S. officials say.

The officials told Reuters they believed a flurry of activity in the past few weeks came from a desire of the various sides to take advantage of the situation.

"The Arabs, particularly, see this as an opportune time to make a major move because they see we recognise our shortcomings in Mideast policy and think we may be willing to make a major move to reinstate ourselves in the region," one said.

The officials, who asked not to be identified, said Washington hoped something might come of the activity, but stressed that the United States would not take a leading role.

"We are willing to put effort into it when we see it would produce results," one said. "Right now, we are just watching carefully what they are doing and saying, 'The interest is intense. We are poring over every announcement, seeking verbatim accounts of everything said.'"

"But it hasn't gelled yet. It's still a very fluid situation and it's hard to predict where it's going."

That's why we aren't throwing ourselves at it right now."

Most private analysts believe Middle East peace is far from being a U.S. priority.

"I am very, very cynical about things and I know what the attitude of the Secretary (of State George Shultz) is — cautious, slow, it's too difficult," said Judith Kipper of the Brookings Institution.

The U.S. officials said Jordan taking the leading role.

His Majesty King Hussein was the Arab leader's most critical of President Reagan's sale of arms to Iran in breach of his own embargo saying that U.S. credibility in the Middle East is 'zero'.

The officials said they hoped to learn more about his intentions on Monday and Tuesday during a visit to Washington by Prime Minister Zaid Al Rifai and Foreign Minister Taher Al Masri.

The officials regard Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat — who suggested in a Reuters interview, last month he might be willing to let non-PLO Palestinians attend a conference — as a key to progress.

They said they believed that issue, a divisive one in the PLO, would dominate the April 20 meeting of the Palestine National Council, the Palestinian parliament in exile. "He is going to have to overcome the divisions," one official said.

Private analysts disputed the importance of Mr. Arafat, saying he could not possibly unify the PLO on representation.

Some think Syria holds the key, others Israel. Jim Phillips of the conservative Heritage Foundation called Syria "the greatest area of potential."

He said it might be ready to talk peace, as former President Jimmy Carter suggested after a recent visit to Damascus.

He said that above all, Syria needed to restore an image damaged by Western courts convicting gunmen they claimed were backed by Damascus. It was also being drawn militarily into Lebanon, its economy was suffering and there were signs of estrangement from Iran, of which it is the only Arab supporter in the war against Iraq.

"Because of its isolated position in the Arab World in the Gulf war, it might now be susceptible to Arab pressure," he said.

Geoffrey Kemp of the Carnegie Foundation for International Peace believes Israel holds the key.

"Until Israel reach agreement among themselves on what they want, the whole thing goes nowhere," he said.

U.S. officials acknowledge some in the administration would like early elections in Israel, not one until late next year, in the hope that Foreign Minister Shimon Peres, who favours a conference, would beat Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir, who opposes it.

But they said that was a minority view, as most officials believed Peres' Labour Party could not beat Shamir's Likud.

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A Foreign Ministry official qualified the Davar report later Monday. "Peres said 10,000 to 12,000 Jews a year is not enough for Soviet participation" in the conference, the official said, adding that he did not specifically mention the figures 30,000 to 40,000.

Davar quoted Peres as saying he believes the Soviets have already agreed to permit between 10,000 and 12,000 Jews to emigrate, but "the exodus of 30,000 to 40,000 a year is necessary as a first step" to improve relations between the two countries.

Peres' remarks were paraphrased and given in excerpts from an interview which is to be published in full on Friday.

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Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir objects to linking Soviet Jewish emigration to such a conference for fear that "Soviet Jews would become hostages to Israel's foreign policy," a Shamir aide said.

The prime minister opposes holding a conference arguing that Israel would be outnumbered and would be pushed into making territorial concessions. He favours direct, one-on-one negotiations.

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Jordan, Syria study bids for fibreglass cable project

AMMAN (Petra) — Telecommunications Corporation (TCC) Director General Mohammad Shahed Ismail Monday received the directors general of the Syrian Public Telecommunications Corporation Makram Obaid and accompanying delegation who are currently on a visit to Jordan. Mr. Ismail said that the Syrian delegation's visit is aimed at strengthening cooperation between Jordan and Syria in the telecommunications field.

The visit, he added, also aims at discussing and approving recommendations reached by specialised technical committees in the two corporations regarding bids for a tender for a fibreglass cable project.

Jordan secures larger export outlets in India, Indonesia

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Jordan and India have agreed to increase the volume of bilateral trade exchange following recent official talks at the under secretary level.

The mutual undertaking by both countries to raise the level of their present trade exchange and to set up two joint companies for fertilisers followed intensive talks during the meetings of the annual Jordanian-Indian committee on economic cooperation. A total of \$110 million in trade contracts between Jordan and India resulted from the three-day meeting in New Delhi, India, a valued trading partner to the Kingdom, will import 10 per cent more minerals than it did last year and has asked for 1.1 million tonnes of phosphates, 400,000 tonnes of potash and 250,000 tonnes of diammonium amonic acid (DAP) — a type of fertiliser. In 1986, India bought 1 million tonnes of phosphates and 360,000 tonnes of potash and fertilisers.

In another bid to balance Indian-Jordanian trade, which is now close to \$150 million in the Kingdom's favour, Jordan promised a \$40 million import target for 1987.

Moreover, Jordan this year awarded an Indian company a \$110 million contract to build part of a 450-kilometre highway linking the country's south with Al-Jalil, near the Iraqi border in Jordan's east.

Mohammad Saqqaf, under secretary at the Ministry of Trade and Industry, conceded that the Indian side urged Jordan to either increase its imports from India or to award some possible construction schemes to Indian companies in order to close the present gap in the trade balance.

The government, Mr. Saqqaf said, would continue to buy the same amount of Indian wheat it purchased last year, which was put at 50,000 tonnes, in addition to importing tea, textiles, leather and other commodities.

Mr. Saqqaf spoke to the Jordan Times late Sunday evening, a day after he returned from a 10-day working visit which took him to New Delhi and Jakarta.

According to 1986 figures, the bilateral balance of trade was in favour of Jordan with a \$25 million to a \$12 million trade movement.

Indonesia, he said, would also increase its imports of Jordanian phosphates to 600,000 tonnes from 518,000 in 1985 and of phosphoric acid from last year's 10,000 tonnes to 20,000 tonnes.

For the first time ever, Jakarta also agreed to buy Jordanian potash, and the amount of purchase was left open for the Indonesian officials to decide. Indonesia also said it was willing to take part in a joint project for fertilisers and to assist in Jordan's JD 4.5 million factory for vegetable oil in producing palm oil and derivatives.

A group of concerned Indonesian officials and businessmen will visit Jordan soon to assess venues for their participation in the vegetable oil plant, set up within the Zarqa free zone area.

Both sides also discussed marketing Jordanian pharmaceuticals in India and diversifying and expanding the types and volume of trade exchange.

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Hmoud briefs Danish team on Jordan's agricultural policy, plans

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Agriculture Marwan Al Hmoud said Monday that Jordan was interested in bolstering its relations with the international community and is at the same working to achieve Arab food security.

During a meeting with a visiting Danish delegation, Mr. Hmoud outlined Jordan's efforts to achieve socio-economic development and said Jordan's activities were within pan-Arab efforts aimed at achieving food security and economic independence.

The minister added that the agricultural sector in Jordan derives its importance from the fact that it is one of the main pillars of the Jordanian economy and that it is a major source of income for 20 per cent of Jordan's population. This sector, Mr. Hmoud continued, is also important because it provides jobs for about 12 per cent of the labour force in the country and contributes to achieving food security and improving the balance of trade. Despite the declining role of this sector in local production, it still plays an active role in economic development, he added.

Mr. Hmoud cited limited available agricultural resources, particularly arable land, water and fluctuations in production due to climatic conditions and small agricultural estates as the main problems facing the agricultural sector. However, the minister said that the government's policy and its organisational plans for this important sector have taken into consideration all these problems in a bid to stop the deterioration and to increase agricultural investment, profits and farmers' and agricultural workers' income.

The five-year development plan has directed special attention to the agricultural sector, the minister continued. The five-year plan includes programmes and objectives designed to achieve a growth rate of 7.8 per cent in the agricultural sector thus bringing to JD 163 million the income from agriculture by the year 1990 from its current rate of JD 97 million, he noted.

The minister also said that the government's plan for upgrading agriculture concentrates on public participation in agricultural development programmes and projects and enhancing the private sector's role in this sector.

Head of the Danish delegation Mr. Paul Sondergaard, praised Jordan's experience in the agricultural field and said that Jordan has achieved great progress.

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Deputy Prime Minister Abdul Wahhab Al Majali receives Minister of Higher Education Joachim Baume in Amman Monday (Petra photo)

Majali, Assad receive visiting GDR higher education minister

AMMAN (Petra) — Deputy Prime Minister Abdul Wahhab Al Majali on Monday received Minister of Higher Education in the German Democratic Republic (GDR) Professor Hans Joachim Baume on a four-day visit to Jordan. Minister of Higher Education Nassereddin Al Assad was present at the meeting.

During the meeting they discussed existing cooperation and relations between the two countries in the political, scientific and economic fields and means of further promoting and developing these relations. They also stressed the necessity of increasing the volume of existing cooperation in the cultural and academic fields and increasing scholarships in implementation of an agreement for cultural cooperation signed between the two countries. The ambassador of the German Democratic Republic in Amman was present at the meeting.

Prof. Baume expressed hope that cooperation between the RSS and East German scientific institutions could be enhanced. The minister also proposed that a cooperation agreement be concluded between the RSS and scientific institutions in the German Democratic Republic.

The East German official was accompanied on the visit by Minister of Higher Education Under Secretary Ahmad Al Tal. Prof. Baume also visited the University of Jordan and was briefed on its establishment, development and plans by the acting president of the university, Dr. Mahmoud Al Samra. Dr. Al Samra praised the existing cooperation between the university and East German universities.

Prof. Baume called for the exchange of visits between teaching staff from the university and their counterparts at universities in the German Democratic Republic with the aim of strengthening scientific and administrative relations.

Also Monday, Prof. Baume visited the Royal Scientific Society (RSS), where he was briefed by its acting president Jamal Al Budour on its establishment, duties and its role in national development. Mr. Budour said that the RSS covers 80 per cent of its expenditure from self-acquired income, 4 per cent from a government subsidy and 16 per cent from technical aid provided by a number of countries.

Mr. Budour also reviewed scopes of cooperation with East Germany in the areas of construction, training, electronics, maintenance and mining.

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Prince Hassan calls on world nations to formulate long-term, comprehensive housing strategy

Minister delivers Crown Prince's address to U.N.

Commission on Human Settlements meeting in Nairobi

NAIROBI (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan has called on world nations to work out a comprehensive strategy on housing taking into consideration the vast growth in world population and the increasing housing demand of future generations.

Prince Hassan's call was contained in an address delivered on his behalf by Minister of Municipal and Rural Affairs and the Environment Youssef Hamdan Al Jaber to the 10th meeting of the United Nations Commission on Human Settlements which opened in Nairobi, Kenya, on Monday.

In his address, Prince Hassan said that organisations dealing with the question of settlements and housing should carry out programmes designed to serve those people in need of shelter and accommodation as well as those who have been displaced or made homeless. The problem of shelter and housing is one of the major issues for world nations and ought to be given a great deal of their attention, Prince Hassan continued. He suggested that more attention should be given to settlements in rural regions where many inhabitants tend to abandon their farms and land as a result of a lack of proper services which prompts them to migrate to urban centres where they can benefit from such services. Cities, once they become overcrowded with vast numbers of people, become fertile ground for crimes, social problems, misery and economic imbalances, thus increasing the proportion of unemployment, displacement and hunger, Prince Hassan noted.

This situation reminds us of the International Year of Shelter for the Homeless and its objectives and requires that we all consider the most effective means of achieving those objectives and goals, Prince Hassan continued. He said that when referring to homes and shelters, one should go beyond the concept of four walls and give more consideration and care to the human beings who live there as they should be the focus of attention and the ones who benefit most from development schemes. For this reason, it is incumbent on us to draw up programmes for helping low-income individuals acquire homes and to enable needy people to have a shelter of their own, Prince Hassan said.

Talking about the means and the resources of different nations, one has to take into consideration the technology of building, the means for operating a successful scheme designed to ensure shelter and homes and their essential services for the population and also to secure job opportunities for the inhabitants, the Crown Prince's speech continued.

Prince Hassan criticised developing nations for failing to find proper and practical solutions for homeless people. The accumulating foreign debt in many developing countries, the drop in the level of their Gross National Product and other factors have resulted in a serious shortage of financial resources which would otherwise have financed the construction of decent shelter for homeless people, Prince Hassan pointed out.

He said that this situation makes it incumbent on the world community to make available sufficient funds through national and international contributions to finance housing projects and to also search for low-cost building materials for that purpose.

Referring to the housing situation in Jordan, Prince Hassan said that the Kingdom is about to complete work on a comprehensive strategy on housing that would cover the country's needs from now and until the year 2000 and which would gradually improve the living standards of poor districts.

The inhabitants of the West Bank, occupied by Israel since 1967 are in dire need of help from the international community in view of Israel's arbitrary measures aimed at evicting the indigenous population from their homeland and confiscating Arab land and homes, Prince Hassan pointed out.

He said that Jordan will not abandon its support for the steadfastness of the Arab people living under Israeli rule since this support is essential to enable them to resist Israel's repressive measures. With this in mind, Jordan has worked out an integrated development scheme for the occupied Arab territory aimed at safeguarding the Arab identity there, and helping the Arab inhabitants stand up to Israel's inhuman measures, Prince Hassan added. In the development scheme for the West Bank, priority has been given to solving housing problems and at least JD 75 million will be raised for the housing sector, which is to be given in the form of grants and loans.

Because Jordan believes that the housing sector plays a key role in helping the Arabs hold on to their homes and their land, it has been given a high profile and allocation within the plan, Prince Hassan pointed out.

In his address, Prince Hassan also called on world nations to arrive at agreements on disarmament and the control of nuclear weapons. He voiced support for plans to remove missiles from Europe and other parts of the world and also to end to conflicts going on in the Middle East, Latin America, and Africa, and above all the Gulf region. Prince Hassan urged world nations to stop the war of genocide against the Palestinian people who he said are now exposed to extermination and the obliteration of their Arab heritage and culture.

Famine, which Prince Hassan said continues to threaten numerous countries in Africa, requires serious attention and action and also international cooperation for the sake of ending these tragedies. Food precedes the quest for finding homes for the hungry people of the world, Prince Hassan stressed. He urged world governments to enact legislations encouraging people to move to rural regions to participate in the process of food production.

The issues of peace, war and desertification are all closely connected with the question of shelter and therefore, Prince Hassan said, national plans should give priority for finding food and homes for the poor people.

Committee reviews plan for Crown Prince's award

AMMAN (Petra) — The supervisory committee for the Crown Prince Award for cultural and voluntary activities held a meeting Monday at the Education Department of Greater Amman during which members discussed issues related to the award scheme and means of achieving its goals.

The meeting also discussed preparations for an annual exhibition which will be held during the next month. The department's director, Dr. Mahdi Al Krnz chaired the meeting and called on those in charge of school activities at the department to contribute to social service, cultural, sports and exploration activities within the award scheme.

Youngsters get together and lend a helping hand to the less fortunate

By Nermeen Murad Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — A group of 20 children, aged 8 to 10, held a press conference at the Haya Arts Centre on Monday to publicise "The Little Hands," their newly-formed charity group.

The group's objective was expressed in their theme song, "The little hands, strong and willing, get together to do some giving." The group will be the "Home of Hope" which cares for the multiple handicapped, both children and adults.

Willingness to help was the bond which brought these children together. Laith Madi, 9, projected this feeling when faced with his mother's dilemma as to how to help a friend of hers generate funds for physiotherapy equipment for the handicapped.

"In hope they met, their hands were set, to help and give the less fortunate," their song went.

Laith and his friends felt that there was a need to help less privileged children. "We have to help the needy... we have comfort, so we have to help," he said.

The group, the first of its kind in Jordan, stressed that they did not want to be seen as an official group belonging to any existing organisation. "We do not want to be official or famous," said Laith, acting as an unofficial spokesman for the group. "Why should only old people do good things for children?"

Zain Qusous, 9, said she did paintings depicting space and galaxies, done in pastel colours, that she intends to display in the forthcoming bazaar. Mohammed Shukri, also 9, said he wrote a story about an army fighter pilot who goes to war with the enemy. When asked about the ending of the story he said "the story is not over yet."

Large and small hands welcome to help

The children told the press conference they welcomed all children to join them provided they were ready to be serious. "We know how to play and be funny, but we also know how to be serious," Laith said.

Asked by a reporter whether he expected anything of His Majesty King Hussein, Laith said: "Of course the King and other famous people can help, but we also accept help from everybody — even if they are not famous."

The children expressed thanks to Dr. Abdullah Khatib, director of the General Union of Voluntary Societies (GUVS), for his support and contributions to the group. Parents of the children attended the press conference.

Charity marchers troubled by problems

AMMAN (J.T.) — Having had a trouble free journey for the past week, Vickie Dakessian and Ali Pharaon had to stop three kilometres short of their scheduled destination on Sunday because of mechanical and physical problems.

The red truck towing the trailer, home for Vickie and Ali during their 10-day charity march across Jordan, had some mechanical troubles whilst the walkers themselves suffered from the effects of the long walk.

"A medical team was sent down to give medical attention to Vickie's swollen leg and Ali's aching ankle, they took with them a mechanic to check on the truck," said Mrs. Nadia Almi, coordinator of the march. "All went well and the walkers were able to continue their journey on Monday," she added.

On Monday Vickie and Ali started at the petrol station near the Abiad phosphate mine. As they passed through the village of Al Haza they were joined by the employees at the Haza mine, said Mrs. Almi. Ten kilometres after the village, the walkers rested from 11:00 until 3:00:00.

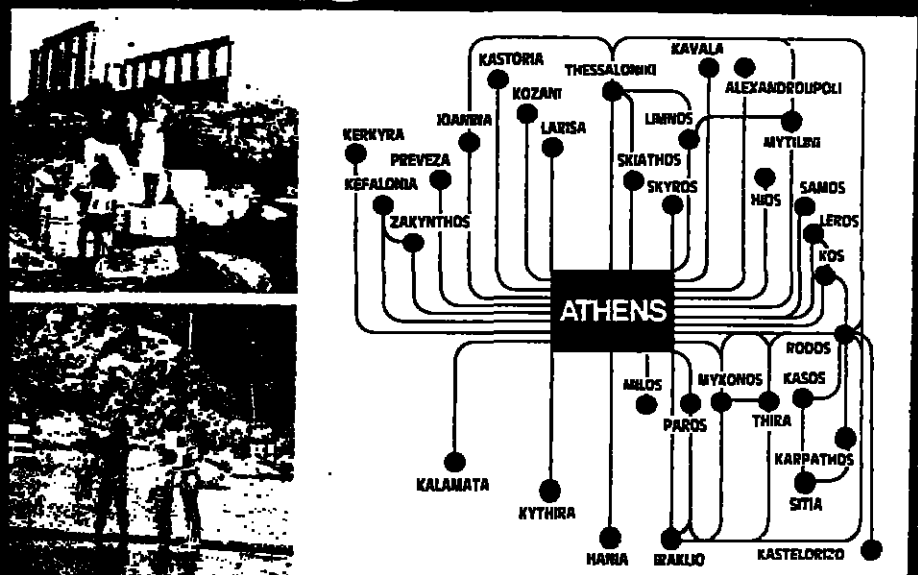
During the second half of the day, Vickie and Ali walked to the Tafleeh crossroads and through the village of Al Hneimeh. Their day ended one kilometre after Al Hussineh at 7:00 p.m.

Mrs. Almi went on to list the first ten people to complete the 37 kilometres in the Amman stage: they are P. Nelson (Hash House Harriers), Chris Neilson (Hash House Harriers), Hiyam Mansour (Road Runners), Joseph Issa (Orthodox Youth Committee), Samiha Abu Ghader (Road Runners), Jarrar Zimerman (Road Runners), Walid Al Lati (Orthodox Youth Committee), Abed Al Noor (Jordan Youth Committee), Abeer Jasir (Petra Bank), Bassam Jarrar (Petra Bank).

Royal marchers

She added that Their Royal Highnesses Hamzeh, Hashem, Haya, Inan, and Rayyah (in a baby carriage) also finished the walk. Her Royal Highness Princess Haya completed the entire distance on foot, Mrs. Almi said.

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Time bomb or dud?

A POLITICAL time bomb has just been sent to the U.S. Congress — at its request. As provided for by the anti-apartheid law passed by both houses of the U.S. Congress over President Reagan's veto, the State Department last week submitted to Congress a list of arms suppliers of South Africa. The list has been drawn up, according to the law, "with a view to terminating U.S. military assistance to those countries" who are violating a 1977 U.N. arms embargo against South Africa.

The dynamite for the bomb is being supplied by Israel — which tops the list of South African arms suppliers. According to newspaper reports, the State Department list estimates Israel provides South Africa with between \$600 million to \$800 million in arms sales per year. And Israel also tops the list of recipients of U.S. military assistance; it is slated to receive \$3 billion this year, of which \$1.8 billion is in military aid.

Israel has been scrambling to defuse the time bomb by declaring it would not renew its military contracts with South Africa, a promise similar to one it made in 1977 when the U.N. embargo was first implemented. Many of Israel's contracts are multi-year, however; thus, the declaration will not satisfy the U.S. law which addresses arms sales this year.

So, pretty soon, when Congress debates foreign aid to Israel, the question of the South African arms sales will no doubt be aired. At that point, Congress will need the bomb squad to defuse the explosive. The issue is too clear to be ignored — Israel, the largest recipient of American military assistance, is a major arms supplier to South Africa. Should Congress implement the anti-apartheid law and cut off military assistance, the political explosion would rock Capitol Hill and send congressmen and lobbyists heading for cover. Should Congress, however, make an exception for Israel, and accept some bland assurances of no new contracts, the political time bomb would probably be defused without a sound. And Congress could then avoid the political shrapnel of standing by its principles. Which seems more likely? This political time bomb could turn out to be a real dud.

ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i: Peace efforts continue

KING Hussein's present tour of four nations is perhaps one of the most important he has made so far. In Morocco, the monarch has discussed the Gulf war and Arab affairs, and in Brussels and Holland and Britain he will be discussing efforts spearheaded by Jordan to find a solution for the Middle East problem. In Europe, the King is trying to muster further support for the proposed international conference which is hoped to bring about a lasting peace to the Arab region. The King's visit to Belgium coincides with an increase in diplomatic activity by the European countries for convening the proposed conference which can end the Arab-Israeli conflict in compliance with the will of the international community. As these efforts are being made, Israel continues to persist in its stand and its refusal to implement United Nations resolutions on the Arab-Israeli conflict which guarantee the rights of the Palestinian people to their homeland. Also, the present visit of Prime Minister Zaid Rifai to Washington is of paramount importance because he is seeking U.S. support for the idea of an international conference. His talks with American officials is another chance for the U.S. administration for showing its real intentions about the future of our usurped lands. The prime minister's visit is bound to expose the real stand of the United States and show if it was really working for peace.

Al Dustour: Unique ties

THE Jordanian-Moroccan joint communique issued at the end of King Hussein's talks with King Hassan II, reflected the unique brotherly ties between Jordan and Morocco and the strong ties between the two monarchs. Both countries hold identical views on all questions discussed at the meetings, especially on Arab affairs and means of preserving the rights of the Arab people. Morocco and Jordan have stressed in their joint communique that the will of the international community should be implemented with regard to the Gulf war which has been sapping the resources of the two neighbouring states. They supported the resolutions of the Islamic summit meeting in Kuwait which called for an immediate halt to the conflict. Both monarchs renewed their desire to convene an Arab summit meeting with the purpose of discussing Arab issues and achieving an Arab consensus on all questions of concern to the Arab Nation. King Hussein and King Hassan have voiced support for King Fahd's endeavours for holding an Arab summit because they feel that such gathering is of paramount importance at the present stage. There is no doubt that the two kings have also discussed the international conference which is aimed at establishing a lasting peace in the Middle East region. The joint communique has emphasised the need for a joint Arab stand that should precede a joint Arab action at the coming conference.

Sawt Al Shaab: Arab summit convening urged

IN the joint Jordanian-Moroccan communique King Hussein and King Hassan emphasised the need for convening an Arab summit meeting which is necessary for arriving at an Arab consensus. This summit is the most effective forum for the Arabs to reach agreement on future joint action. The absence of agreement and the continued disputes among Arab leaders tend to weaken the Arab stand and disintegrate their efforts and their resources. Unity within the Arab ranks is essential for the Arabs who want to confront common challenges and dangers; and for this reason, King Hassan and King Hussein have expressed support for King Fahd's endeavours to convene an Arab summit. Both monarchs have called on the Arab and Islamic nations to exert all possible efforts for ending the Gulf conflict and for safeguarding the interests of the Islamic nation. Had there been genuine solidarity among Arab and Islamic nations this Gulf conflict would not have lasted until now; and had the Arabs come out in total support for Iraq, the Iraqis would not have dared to prolong the war for more than six years. The communique made it clear that the Gulf war and the Arab summit should be given utmost priority over all other considerations so that the Arab nation can succeed in its endeavours to fend off dangers.

THE VIEW FROM SECOND CIRCLE

To our children, we wish better luck

By Rami G. Khouri

THE flurry of activity throughout the Middle East, Western Europe, Moscow, Washington and New York surrounding attempts to convene an international conference to discuss Arab-Israeli peace has evoked a counter-flurry of pessimistic comments from throughout the Arab World about the international conference's chances of success. Pessimism, scepticism and cynicism are nothing new to the Arab psyche vis-a-vis the prospects of a negotiated peace with Israel. It is almost axiomatic, if not Pavlovian, that the Arab mind, when triggered by the provocative thought that the Arabs and the Israelis might negotiate a peace accord that satisfies both sides' minimal demands, will react by asserting that such talk of peace is the dreams of fools, if not traitors, cowards and spineless capitulationists.

I am not convinced of this reaction, and find the reaction itself worth examining, for what it has to tell us about what I suggest is the real state of the Arab political psyche. My whole thesis is based on the assumption that Israelis are neither supermen nor monsters — that the average Israeli, like the average Palestinian or Jordanian, simply wishes to live a normal life, with its full complement of personal, political and human rights, including protection of a sovereign state, in the balmy, heart-fluttering shade of one's own flag, and national identity. To explain our dilemma — dilemma is perhaps a mild term to describe the loss of an entire country, the fragmentation of a whole nation, the pacification of a complete race, and the stultification of political processes in nearly two score states — by ascribing amazonian powers and draconian intentions to our little enemy state and its tentacles throughout the world strikes me not only as factually wrong, but politically and psychologically humiliating for anyone who voluntarily calls himself or herself an Arab. If our enemies are so amazingly smart and strong, and we and our enemies are both members of the same biological family of Semites, descendants of Shem, then we cannot — thank the Lord, but otherwise keeping Him out of this for the moment — blame our dilemma on the vagaries of biology and the inequitable development of the flesh. No, the Israelis are not smarter or stronger or more cunning than us. They have simply worked harder, and with more determination, and with more planning and strategic objectives, to beat the hell out of us, occupy all of Palestine, surround themselves by zones of military occupation or pacification, and hold the entire Arab World's relations with the Western powers virtually hostage to its own self-defined notions of security. That's the bad news.

The good news is that we have not given up, nor are we likely to, because the Palestinian identity at the core of the Arab side of the struggle is too genuine to dissipate, or to assimilate in the Arab hinterland; and the Arab hinterland itself is too grievously

wounded to accept the affront of its humiliation and defeat without fighting back to regain a sense of honour and justice, if not all its lands.

So why then, in this context, do most Arab commentators, political leaders and others who have access to public discourse assert almost without exception, and with a measure of certitude unseen in these eastern Mediterranean districts since the Oracle at Delphi faded away, that a negotiated peace with Israel is impossible, that talk of an international conference is all a trick by the evil Americans and Israelis to gain time, that sitting down at the table with Israel is tantamount to accepting Israeli dictates, and that even contemplating coexistence with Israel is an act of high treason and a stab in the back to the Palestinian people?

I am perpetually confused by the signals that emanate from the Arab World: On the one hand, the Arab leaders, at Fes, in newspaper and television interviews, and probably while napping after lunch, repeatedly indicate that peace in the Holy Land can be achieved only through an international conference; on the other hand, the overwhelming voice of the Arab Nation and the Arab man and woman in the street, drowns out the advocates of an international conference by refusing to accept that Israel might ever negotiate in good faith, let alone acknowledge Palestinian rights, withdraw from the territories occupied in 1967, and coexist with a self-determining Palestinian folk in a little state next door.

Which opinion really represents the Arab World? Is it possible to know? Are the two really mutually exclusive? Is it possible that we all sincerely wish to negotiate peace through an international conference, but deep down we refuse to believe that it will ever happen? Or — and this is what I suggest is really the heart of the Arab matter today — is it that we are prepared to attempt a negotiation with Israel through an international conference on the *a priori* basis that the conference will give us all we demand, but that we are frightened to death of the possibility, or the probability, that the international conference would fail, that negotiations would break down, the status quo ante would reign supreme, and we would finally have to come to grips with the awful reality that we have always avoided embracing: That all of Palestine is ruled by Israel, that the Arab World has been able to do nothing to change this fact in 20 years, or 40 years, and that we have no strategy to face this fact, and are therefore destined to live with humiliation, ignominy and the ravaged souls and psyches of our children, forever, in the shadow of a Zionist power that dictates facts from the Atlantic to the Gulf?

If, as many amongst us believe, the Israelis are so strong and wicked, why then should we even consider negotiating peace with them through an international conference? Our scepticism of the

possibility of negotiating peace at an international conference is not what it appears to be, or so I think. We are afraid not of attempting what it appears to be, or so I think. We are afraid not of attempting, but of failing a negotiation, because we are terrified of the consequences of failure coupled with the absence of a long-term strategic plan to confront the enemy. A failed negotiation is not a recipe for perpetual Arab failure, loss and enslavement, as these feelings emanate from the vortex of territorial loss, military subjugation, political tranquillisation and virtual diplomatic lifelessness. If we have lost at war, and then lose at negotiating a peace, what then do we do?

This is not a case where losing is acceptable, such as the Americans in Central America, the French in the South Pacific or the British in India. This is a far deeper matter, in those complex cavities of the mind where pride and principle mix with love and heritage to produce the prize of identity, and the immeasurable, incalculable, and ultimately inadmissible possibility of the total and final loss of one's identity. The prospect for the Arabs, and particularly for the Palestinians, of an attempted peace negotiation that fails is so gruesome and awful that it cannot even be imagined, and given the current reality of an Arab World badly fragmented and given its component parts as much as it fights its external enemies, and therefore of the prospect of long-term accommodation to Zionist conquest, Arab acquiescence, and Palestinian national banishment and evaporation.

Don't believe it, though. If the Jewish people and our Zionist enemies hung on for a bit under 2,000 years and did not lose their identity, why should the Palestinians and the rest of the Arabs be any different? But what kind of effort would we have to make to achieve Palestinian and Arab rights in the end? What kinds of changes would we have to make in the Arab World? How much suffering would we have to endure before we find the means to fight back with coherence, to resist with effect, and to work together with purpose?

Is it easier, then, simply to write off the chances of a negotiated peace, and suffer the present status quo as acceptable, though not perfect? Is it easier to ascribe the fault of our loss to the exaggerated powers of our enemy, and therefore assume that our enemy does not have normal human desires to live in peace? Is it easier, finally, to pass the whole file on to the children of the Arab World, and wish them better luck?

Isn't this the easiest way out, by making neither war nor peace? How peculiar: We blame the Israelis for not making peace, and we blame ourselves, the Arabs, for not making war. Whom do we blame for not making sense? Whom do we blame for not coming to terms with our historical reality?

Spy scandal hurts Marine image, raises doubts on guard role

By Christopher Hanson
Reuters

WASHINGTON — The arrest of two U.S. Marines for spying in Moscow has hit the elite force's reputation, already tarnished by a disaster in Lebanon and Oliver North's role in the arms-for-Iran scandal.

The Marine Corps has accused Sergeant Clayton Lonetree, 25, and Corporal Arnold Bracy, 21, former guards at the U.S. embassy in Moscow, of turning over secret documents to Soviet agents and allowing KGB security men into sensitive parts of the embassy for up to four hours at a time.

Both evidently were lured into spying after they violated regulations by having affairs with Soviet women, according to U.S. officials.

Intelligence sources say the security breach was extremely damaging and Pentagon investigators are probing whether more Marines were involved in the sex-spy operation.

Staff Sergeant Robert Stanley Stufflebeam, 24, who served in Moscow between 1985 and 1986 at the same time as Lonetree and Bracy, is being held on suspicion of lying to investigators about contacts with Soviet women.

"None of this kind of publicity, whether it's North or the embassy guards, is good for the image of the Marine Corps," retired Marine Colonel James Donovan of the Centre for Defence Information, a private research group, told Reuters.

"The Marine Corps, much

more than any other service, has prided itself on its devotion to duty and discipline."

North, a decorated Marine combat veteran, was a key player in the Iran affair that plunged the Reagan administration into its gravest crisis. He is alleged to have improperly diverted profits from Iran arms sales to Nicaraguan rebels.

His role has prompted soul-searching and debate in the Marine Corps Gazette, a service magazine, with some officers questioning if Marines should serve in the White House.

"Politicians need the help of military officers, but there is no place for zealots," Donovan said. The 198,000-man Marine Corps — a sea and air strike force with its own combat jets — has a reputation for unflinching patriotism, John Wayne heroics, and military effectiveness earned in some of the bloodiest fighting in World War II, among other conflicts.

But its image of effectiveness was tarnished when a bomb-laden truck ploughed into a Marine barracks in Beirut and exploded in 1982, killing some 240 troops sent there to restore order. A subsequent investigation concluded that security had been lax.

In 1980, Marine helicopter pilots training to help rescue U.S. hostages held in Tehran drank heavily, smoked marijuana, and bragged to girlfriends of the secret operation, jeopardising the mission, according to a recent book, "The Straw Giant," by defence expert Arthur Hadley.

When the mission went ahead, some Marine pilots turned back in a sandstorm, contributing to its failure, he wrote.

After then President Jimmy Carter ordered the rescue force to abort the mission and leave Iran in transport aircraft, Marine pilots dashed to the plane without even turning off helicopter engines, failed to destroy their craft as ordered, and left top secret papers in them, according to Hadley.

For nearly 40 years, Marines have played a major non-combat role in protecting U.S. embassies abroad. Sometimes called "diplomats in uniform," they can be seen in smart dress blues standing ramrod straight at their embassy guard posts — symbols of U.S. resolve and fortitude.

Or so it seemed until the spy scandal erupted.

Now it is clear young and single Marine guards can be a weak link in U.S. security despite the corps' motto, "semper parati" — always faithful.

The scandal has prompted critics to urge that the Reagan administration stop using Marines as guards and find security people who are more seasoned in the ways of the world.

Despite the uproar, Marine spokesman Brigadier General Walt Boomer insisted the American public was still staunchly behind the Marine Corps.

"As I travel around the country, I see a tremendous outpouring of good faith," he told reporters.

Moscow talks seen important for Shultz as well as Reagan

By Carol Giacomo
Reuters

WASHINGTON — Secretary of State George Shultz is preparing for crucial arms control talks in Moscow with his own reputation, as well as that of the Reagan administration, on the line.

With the presidency weakened by the Iran arms scandal, and doubts raised in some quarters about Shultz's own political strength, his meetings with Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze next week will be a barometer of whether an arms control agreement can be reached before Ronald Reagan leaves office in 1989.

Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev showed no inclination to compromise on disputed arms control issues when British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher visited Moscow last week.

But some U.S. officials, Western diplomats and other analysts predict the outlines of an accord on eliminating medium-range missiles from Europe could be approved during Shultz's stay in Moscow from April 13 to April 16.

Shultz has been secretary of state since 1982 in an administration that has produced no major foreign policy successes to ensure its place in history.

"The prospect of an arms agreement has encouraged him to stay on," said Barry Blechman, a U.S.-Soviet relations specialist with Georgetown University's Centre for Strategic and International Studies. "He would like to

accomplish that." The past few months have not been a high point of Shultz's career. There was repeated speculation he might be forced out of office, although that now seems to have dissipated.

The presidential Tower Commission, which probed the sale of U.S. arms to Iran and the diversion of profits to Nicaraguan rebels, faulted Shultz and Defence Secretary Casper Weinberger for distancing themselves from the secret policy that plunged Reagan's presidency into its deepest crisis.

The two did not energetically oppose the policy because they wanted to preserve their own reputations, the commission said.

Shultz and Weinberger rejected the criticism, but Shultz confessed to reporters, "I wonder if there's more that I could have done. I believe there was. I don't give myself any plus in all this."

Some critics say Shultz should have resigned as a matter of principle rather than stay with an administration pursuing a major foreign policy initiative with which he fundamentally disagreed.

Others say that if he decided to stay and keep quiet in the name of loyalty to the president, he should have been less forthright in his public criticism after the affair blew into the open. They noted Weinberger has kept a much lower profile on the issue.

Congressional sources, Western diplomats and private analysts disagree about how the

affair has affected Shultz's political clout and his credibility — at home and abroad — as he negotiates with the Soviets next week.

One Republican strategist, who has watched Shultz closely, said the secretary's standing on Capitol Hill, where he had been well-regarded and where he must convince the Senate to approve any arms treaty he negotiates, has been damaged.

A Western diplomat viewed Shultz — indeed, the entire Reagan administration — as "quite considerably" weakened. Shultz's efforts to distance himself from the Iran policy angered many conservatives, creating pressure on Shultz to avoid advocating his usual moderate positions in an effort to prove his loyalty to Reagan.

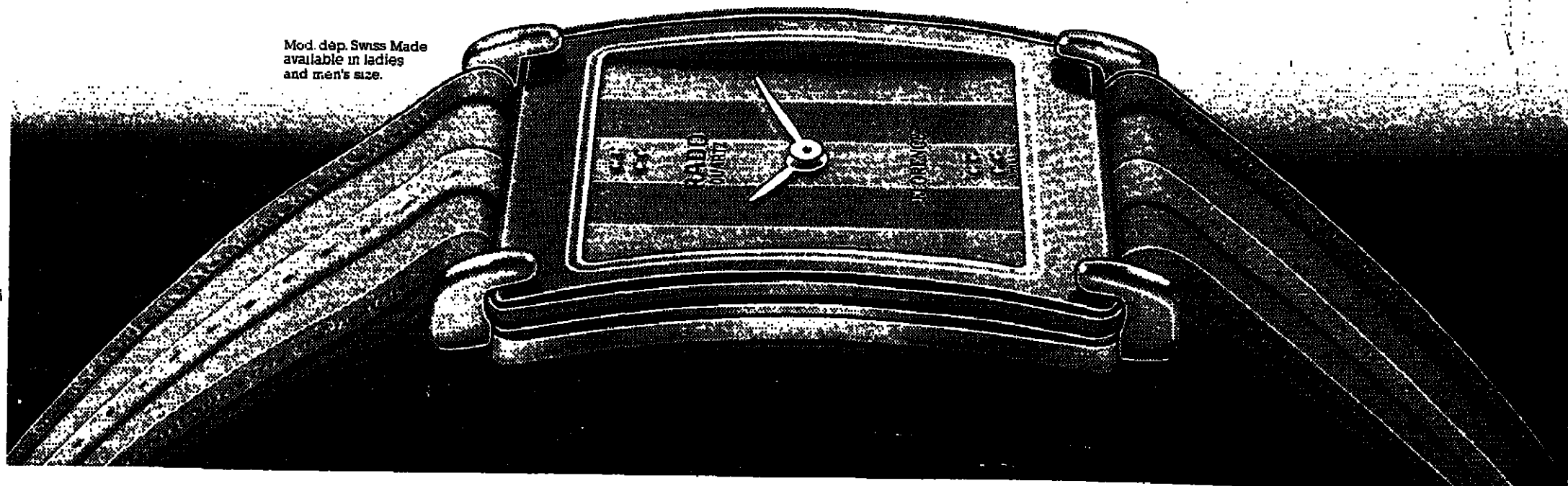
He and other analysts speculated this is one reason the U.S.-Soviet SALT-2 treaty finally was abandoned by Washington last December when details about the Iran scandal were swirling around the world.

"It seems to me Shultz was not able or unwilling to argue a more moderate case," the Western diplomat said.

Other analysts say the Iran damage is receding and that Shultz's standing has risen, particularly with the arrival of Reagan's new chief of staff Howard Baker and National Security Adviser Frank Carlucci, who, like Shultz, are seen as more pragmatic, more moderate and more desiring of an arms control accord than their predecessors at the White House.

The shape of excellence.

RADO Florence «Anatom»



سكنا من الجاهل



Painted storks in India's Keoladeo National Park return to their nests at twilight, a time that also attracts grass cutters from nearby villages. A shortage of fodder caused by a severe drought in the area has caused an upswing in the illegal harvesting of grass. Officials fear the drought

may disrupt the winter migration. About 200,000 birds migrate to the park for winter feeding. Among them is the rare and endangered Siberian crane.

Incursions by grass cutters nightly event in bird refuge

By Donald J. Frederick
National Geographic

BHARATPUR, India — Dusk gently enveloped India's Keoladeo National Park. A flight of Sarus cranes wheeled overhead and a kingfisher stood on the end of a dead branch.

The young naturalist peered through his binoculars, then suddenly handed them to a visitor. "Look," he said, pointing to a spot about 100 yards away. There, instead of another exotic bird, the visitor saw four motionless figures flattened in a small depression in the ground. Behind them, 50 or 60 more people could be seen in a distant stand of trees.

Fodder for cattle

"Grass cutters," explained the naturalist. "They come here at dusk from nearby villages to get fodder for their cattle."

The invasion of the grass cut-

ters is only one of the recent problems to beset the small but famous bird sanctuary in northern India. A severe drought has dried up marshes and wetlands, disrupting the breeding cycles of many waterbirds. And not long ago a mysterious fire scorched 267 acres in the 11.6-square-mile park.

The events have alarmed the world's bird watchers, who travel great distances to see the park's 374 species of birds.

Normally some 400,000 indigenous Indian birds arrive to breed in the park during the summer and fall. About 200,000 migrant birds come for winter feeding. Located in an agricultural area bordered by villages, Keoladeo is especially vulnerable this year. The ground is dry and fodder is scarce. The park's neighbors have been banned from grazing their cattle in the park since 1982. Some Indian newspapers speculated that the fire might have

been purposely set by villagers. It is still being investigated.

Both the cutting and the fire may be blessings in disguise, according to V.S. Vijayan, who has been conducting a long-range study of the park for the Bombay Natural History Society. He points out that one species of a perennial, amphibious grass has spread so much that it threatens open-water areas of the park vital to waterfowl.

To check the grass, Vijayan proposes reintroducing cattle in confined, closely supervised areas. These selected grazing areas would be rotated annually.

Balance of pressures

David Ferguson of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, which helped sponsor the study, sees the events "as a microcosm of the kind of situation faced by wildlife in many parts of the world. It boils down to an ever-increasing

pressure for resources by an ever-increasing population, and the efforts to balance them against the needs of wildlife."

Even in a difficult year, the bird watchers who come to Keoladeo seldom leave disappointed. Bill and Julie Rea of Albuquerque, N.M., were no exceptions. "We've added more than 50 species to our list in just one afternoon," says Bill Rea. "But the biggest thrill was seeing three Siberian cranes."

Keoladeo is one of the few wintering grounds of the rare cranes, which fly down from western Siberia.

Few people gave much thought to vanishing species in the 1920s, when the land was flooded to attract migrating waterfowl. It became an outdoor shooting gallery, and huge kills were recorded. The record belongs to the Viceroy Lord Linlithgow's hunting party, which, on Nov. 12, 1938, killed 4,273 birds.

Gains from privatisation may be small without measures to boost competition

The following article is reprinted from the International Monetary Fund's Survey.

THE sale or transfer of public enterprises to the private sector may improve economic efficiency, according to an unpublished Fund working paper, but these gains are likely to be modest unless accompanied by measures to increase competition. "Privatisation and Public Enterprises," which was written by Richard Hemming and Ali M. Mansoor of the Fund's Fiscal Affairs Department, also concludes that the budgetary advantages of privatisation are likely to be minimal unless the sale of public enterprises leads to their improved performance and this improvement is reflected in their selling prices and in future tax receipts.

The authors caution that while the authorities of industrial and developing countries should support privatisation because of its potential for bringing about economic gains, they should not expect it to solve all problems associated with large public enterprises. The extent to which privatisation will yield the desired results, say the authors, will depend on the government's ability to put into effect the liberalisation and regulatory policies that must accompany privatisation if it is to succeed. This means that the scope of successful privatisation "is unlikely to be extensive" and that "improving the efficiency of public enterprises as well as seeking alternatives to privatisation will need to be given a high priority."

One of the major arguments used in favour of privatisation is that public enterprises are inefficient and that their efficiency can be improved radically by transferring ownership to the private sector. Public enterprises, the argument goes, do not give their managers sufficient incentives to improve their (and their subordinates') performances. They are also subject to political interference and lack the financial discipline imposed by the capital markets. The implication, according to the authors, is that these enterprises "are likely to have higher production costs at a given level of output than in the private sector."

Advocates of privatisation claim that the problems associated with public enterprises can be reduced sharply (or eliminated) once ownership is transferred to the private sector. The net effect, they say, will be a significant increase in productive efficiency. Messrs. Hemming and Mansoor do not think this line of reasoning holds true in all cases of privatisation. They argue that in cases where an enterprise is already operating in a competitive environment, privatisation will not necessarily lead to much improvement in productive efficiency. "The aggregate impact of such privatisation is necessarily small," because the firm has already been exposed to competition and because competitive firms account for only a small fraction of public enterprises.

By contrast, where the public enterprise is a large monopoly, the potential for achieving efficiency gains as a result of privatisation is great. According to the authors, this is true even though the operation of such firms would probably be closely regulated, and even though the government may retain a controlling interest. The authors explain that there are three main reasons for poten-

tially large gains in this case.

First, political interference is likely to be reduced as the regulatory agency and private shareholders deflect attempts by politicians to become involved in the economic decisions of the firm. This should help improve the quality of managerial decision making. Second, shareholders are likely to offer production incentives — such as bonus payments or profit sharing — to their managers, and this should help improve the firm's productivity. Third, reliance on private capital markets — rather than on the government — for financial support is likely to exert additional pressure on the firm to become more efficient.

The authors warn that actual efficiency gains from privatisation of a monopoly may fall far below potential gains. In fact, they say, substantial gains in efficiency are likely only if the transfer of ownership leads to increased competition. This applies not only to productive efficiency but also to allocative efficiency, since product mix is determined by market structure rather than by ownership.

The extent to which a market can be made more competitive — and thus the scope for enhancing efficiency through privatisation of public enterprises — is limited, however. According to the paper, increased competition may not be possible or even desirable if the enterprise being privatised is a natural monopoly. Likewise, if the firm is engaged in loss-making activities that are nonetheless important from the perspective of meeting social objectives, the removal of market restrictions may not lead to increased competition. Finally, the extent to which markets can be opened up will depend on the degree to which the regulatory system can deter large firms from engaging in anticompetitive practices.

Another major argument used by advocates of privatisation is that a shift in ownership from the public to the private sector will improve the government's financial position. According to this argument, the overall budget deficit in the year of the sale will be reduced by the sale proceeds minus the revenue that the government would have received in that year had it not sold the enterprise. Alternatively, the authorities can use the sale proceeds to finance tax cuts or increased expenditure. But this argument is short-sighted, because it fails to consider how the sale of the enterprise will affect the government's finances in years to come.

The authors argue that when the government sells an asset at its fair market price — defined as the present value of its future after-tax net earnings (discounted at a rate that reflects financial opportunity costs) — the overall fiscal deficit will be smaller at the time of the sale as long as no other budgetary changes take place. "But the counterpart to this initially smaller deficit," they say, "will be larger deficits in all future years, reflecting the loss of revenue in the form of remitted profit." This loss will be offset only when the government uses the proceeds of the sale either to purchase other financial assets or to retire part of its outstanding debt.

ly subsidised, so that the present value of its future net profit stream is negative. Selling such an enterprise would entail either giving the purchaser a lump-sum subsidy equal to the estimated losses or guaranteeing that he would receive subsidies to compensate for such losses. The government's deficit in the year of the sale is then likely to be larger than would have been the case had it not sold the enterprise, while future deficits are likely to be smaller. The authors point out, however, that if the government has to finance the initially larger deficit, debt-service payments will increase. As a result, the future deficits would return to their (higher) original levels, and there would be no improvement in the government's financial position.

In fact, the paper asserts, the only way that the sale of a heavily subsidised enterprise (or any public enterprise) will translate into a permanent improvement in the budget deficit is if the enterprise can be run more efficiently by the private sector and if the government can appropriate some of these gains. This would be the case, for example, if the asset's selling price reflected at least some of the potential gains and if the government could tax away some of the profits resulting from the efficiency improvements. "Indeed, in budgetary terms, this should be the whole point of the privatisation exercise."

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An examination of developments in the United Kingdom (where privatisation has been carried furthest) and in other countries shows that there are a number of practical problems associated with privatisation. Among the most difficult — and potentially costly — of these is how to set the proper selling price for an enterprise. Selling initial shares in

small lots so as to establish a trading price before the majority of shares are placed for sale may be a workable solution for large firms, according to the authors. But when the enterprise is too small to market in parts, or when it is being sold to a single buyer, valuation will remain problematic. The problem is even worse for developing countries, say the authors, because in many cases "neither the private sector of the economy nor the capital market is sufficiently developed to yield even an approximate valuation."

Another problem associated with privatisation — and a major constraint to privatisation in developing countries — is that of how to finance the sale. "Many developing countries do not have a stock market," the paper notes, "and those that do exist are often very small." A possible solution to this problem would be to allow minority participation to foreigners or to other potential buyers who are specifically prevented by law from purchasing shares in these firms. Alternatively, the authors say, the enterprise could be sold to its management and work force, or the transfer of ownership could be carried out through debt-to-equity conversions, although this would again give ownership to foreigners.

Despite these problems, "interest in privatisation appears to be a worldwide phenomenon," with more than 1,000 enterprises slated for privatisation. In general, the primary motive behind privatisation seems to be to rehabilitate enterprises, modernise plant and equipment, expand revenue, or streamline the public sector as part of economic adjustment efforts. The authors point out, however, that only a small fraction of privatisation proposals have been carried out so far. In fact, they say, "the most striking feature" of privatisation in most countries "is the marked divergence between stated intentions and follow-up action."

Of those firms that have been privatised, the majority have been enterprises involved in textiles, food processing, construction, engineering, banking, and hotels. By contrast, privatisation of traditional public enterprises, especially utilities, has been minimal up to now. The authors do not expect that privatisation of such firms will accelerate markedly in the future, however. "Where major enterprises are concerned," they suggest, "most countries intend only a partial dilution of public ownership, with governments retaining a controlling interest."

Research lifts blame for many of the obese

By Jane E. Brody

NEW YORK — Recent findings on the causes of obesity and the metabolic consequences of "yo-yo" dieting are forcing weight reduction specialists to reconsider both their methods and the goals of treatment.

The studies show, for example, what many obese people have been saying for years: They get fat or stay fat on a caloric intake no greater than, and sometimes less than, the amount consumed by people of normal weight.

The dieter accused of "cheating" when losses grind to a halt has also been vindicated. Low-calorie diets, long the mainstay of treatment, are now known to have limited effectiveness in many people because their metabolic rate drops to "protect" them from starvation, sometimes falling low enough to prevent further weight loss on as little as 1,000 calories a day.

And while obesity that runs in families had long been blamed almost entirely on household gluttony and sloth, last year a major study of people who were adopted showed that genetic factors seem to predispose many people to gain weight easily, especially in a land of plenty like the United States where there is little need for physical exertion. Obesity experts are concluding that many, if not most, people with serious weight problems can hardly be blamed for their rotund shape and that, given the effects and effectiveness of current methods of weight reduction, some would be better off staying fat. Only about one dieter in 10 achieves lasting success, and many obese people who manage to lose significant amounts of weight may have to exist in a semistarved state indefinitely to maintain the loss.

"At least half of obese people — those who are more than 30 per cent overweight — who try to diet down to 'desirable' weights listed in the height-weight tables suffer medically, physically and psychologically as a result, and would be better off fat," said Dr. George Blackburn, an obesity specialist at Harvard Medical School.

"For the last five to eight years, I was really in the doldrums," said Dr. Jules Hirsch, obesity specialist at Rockefeller University in New York. "Whatever we tried had the same grim results: People could lose half their body weight, but they'd be miserable in the reduced state and in two to five years, they'd gain it back."

But Dr. Hirsch added: "Prospects opened up by new techniques in biology have really raised my spirits. For example, we are now trying to clone the gene that makes mice obese. In less than 10 years, we should know how the obesity gene acts, whether people are different from mice and whether there are multiple types of obesity. I think, too, that we will better understand the biological factors that regulate body fat and find ways to manipulate them with drugs."

More immediately, some of the recent discovering can be applied now to improve the health and fitness of obese people and to help those with lesser weight problems, most of which are environmentally induced, to shed unwanted pounds permanently without really dieting.

New studies indicate that for many obese people, relatively small weight losses — often only 10 per cent of body weight — can correct a tendency toward diabetes or high blood pressure. Thus, major health risks associated with obesity might be countered with modest losses of 10 to 25 pounds that are easier to maintain.

"The whole premise that the goal of weight reduction should be to reach 'desirable' weight is the major flaw in weight-loss strategies," Dr. Blackburn said. "It's the first 10 per cent of weight loss — not the last 10 per cent — that's important."

For people already consuming a normal number of calories, such losses can often be achieved through an hour a day of physical exercise, with little or no change in caloric intake and with a more lasting reduction than that achieved through dieting alone. For example, at Stanford University Dr. Peter Wood put one group of men whose weight averaged 220 pounds on a diet that reduced caloric intake by 300 calories a day. A similar group of men were instructed to eat as usual but to run or walk 10 to 12 miles a week.

At the end of a year, the exercisers had lost an average of 9 pounds, all in body fat, and the dieters had shed 15 pounds, 12 of which were fat. However, two years later, the dieters had regained half their lost pounds but the exercisers had kept off all the weight.

Even if no weight is actually lost, Dr. Hirsch said, exercise can improve the health of overweight

people by reducing their percentage of body fat and their risk of developing a life-threatening illness.

Furthermore, the popular motivational principle of "if at first you don't succeed, try again" may not apply to weight reduction. Rather, the new studies indicate, the dieter's motto should be "Get it right the first time," according to Kelly Brownell, a psychologist at the University of Pennsylvania. He showed that yo-yo dieting — regaining weight and losing again — increases body fatness and may ultimately result in an inability to lose weight even on a very low caloric intake.

In a study of dieting rats, he showed that at first it took the animals 21 days to lose a specific amount of weight and 46 days to regain it when they returned to a normal caloric intake. But in the next diet cycle, the same diet took 40 days to accomplish the weight-loss goal but the animals regained

the weight in only 14 days. At the same time, their bodies got progressively fatter because in losing weight, they lost both muscle and fat but they gained back proportionately more body fat than they had lost.

Dr. Brownell found that yo-yo dieting increased the activity of lipoprotein lipase, an enzyme that promotes the storage of body fat. And since fat tissue is metabolically less active than muscle, with each diet cycle the animal's daily caloric needs dropped and they gained weight on fewer calories.

The psychologist concluded that yo-yo dieting increases the body's efficiency in using food for fuel and may ultimately make weight loss impossible. Dr. Brownell suggested: "Don't start a diet unless your motivation is high and you adopt a good programme of life-style changes that promote permanent weight loss. If the time isn't right to diet, wait." — New York Times.



ARMENIAN HYDROPONICS: The Agrochemistry and Hydroponics Institute of the Armenian Academy of Sciences reaped 150 tonnes of peralgonium per hectare — 5 times more than the farms growing this essential oil crop in the Ararat Valley. The five-fold yield owes itself to the hydroponical farming in which concrete tubs of solution-soaked volcanic slags are used.

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Mayotte beats Pate in Chicago tennis final

CHICAGO (R) — Tim Mayotte won his second Grand Prix singles title of the year with a 6-4, 6-2 victory over fellow-American David Pate in the final of the \$315,000 Chicago Men's Tennis Tournament.

Mayotte, the third seed, broke the eighth-seeded Pate's serve in the first game of the match and never looked back. He did not lose a game on his own serve and continually attacked the net, where he won 43 of his 64 points.

"I don't think Tim served that well," said Pate, "but he volleyed really well and he kept me on the defensive. I couldn't get my feet in position fast enough to hit a decent passing shot, so he'd win most of the points pretty easily on his serve."

Pate, who had not lost a set all week going into the match, had five break points against Mayotte but could not put any of them away.

Pakistan's cricket captain wants win against England

SHARJAH, United Arab Emirates (R) — Pakistan's captain Imran Khan says he would be more satisfied beating England in its own backyard in the forthcoming five test series than in today's class in the Four-Nation Sharjah Cup cricket tournament.

"To defeat England in a test series on its own soil is a lifelong ambition and more important than beating it in a one-day match," Imran told Reuters.

Imran, who missed Pakistan's match against Australia last Friday, will be leaving his side in today's encounter. But for him, the test series in England is more important.

"I am eager to win in England. No Pakistani skipper has won a series there and I would like to be the first to achieve the feat," he said.

European soccer roundup

Bayern poised for European Cup tie

LONDON (R) — Bayern Munich alone of the four European Cup semifinalists produced the sort of form at the weekend that it will hope to reproduce in Wednesday's important first-leg ties.

Bayern beat Kaiserslautern 3-0, the balding head of 34-year-old Dieter Hoeneß accounting for the game's first goal and his own 100th in the league.

Real Madrid, who visits Bayern on Wednesday, managed only a goalless draw against Espanol while Porto and Dynamo Kiev, rival in the other semifinal, were both beaten.

Bayern knows it needs an emphatic win over Real on Wednesday to make sure of a place in the final. The Spanish champion has demonstrated repeatedly there is nothing it relishes more than overcoming a first-leg deficit in European ties, its quarter-final win over Red Star Belgrade when it came back from a 4-2 defeat being the most recent example.

Bayern's appetite for goals looked sharp in the win over Kaiserslautern which kept it three points clear of second-placed Hamburg, 1-0 winner over Bayer Leverkusen.

By contrast, Borussia Moenchengladbach, West Germany's other European survivor, had a dismal preparation for its trip to Scotland where it meets Dundee United in a UEFA Cup semifinal. It subsided to a 4-0 defeat at Eintracht Frankfurt, prompting trainer Jupp Heynckes to lament: "I didn't see anything positive from them at all."

Real Madrid's 0-0 draw at Espanol on Saturday night gave it a three-point lead in the league. But within 24 hours it had been reduced to one point by Barcelona who put four goals past Atletico Madrid, British imports Gary Lineker and Steve Archibald accounting for two of them.

Lineker's goal was his 17th in his first season in the Spanish League. It was also his dummy that led to Archibald's goal.

The Spanish League will now be decided by a six-team playoff but with points being carried forward from the regular programme, the title almost certainly lies between Real and Barcelona. Real has 50 points in the bank and Barcelona 49, six more than the next team Espanol.

The draw for the playoffs was made Sunday night and Real and Barcelona were paired in the first match next Sunday.

Porto's 2-0 defeat by Sporting allowed Benfica, winner by a similar margin over Rio Ave, to steal five points clear in the Portuguese League. It also dealt Porto's morale a severe blow before entertaining the talented Soviet side Dynamo Kiev.

But Porto could draw some comfort from the fact that Dynamo also lost, falling 2-1 at home to Dnepr Dnepropetrovsk on Friday. Having been awarded three penalties in its previous league game, decisions for which the referee was roundly criticised, Dynamo was awarded another one against Dnepr but this time it was to no avail.

Simpson wins Greensboro golf

GREENSBORO, North Carolina (R) — American Scott Simpson captured his first PGA victory in three years when he shot a two-under-par 70 to win the \$600,000 Greater Greensboro Open by two strokes.

Simpson's 72-hole score of six-under-par 282 put him two shots ahead of local favourite Clarence Rose and earned him \$108,000, his biggest payday ever, for the third victory of his 11-year career. "It's a tremendous thrill," said Simpson. "I was trying not to be anxious out there, but I had my anxious moments. This is a real boost for my confidence."

The defeat left Dynamo in 10th place in the league but it has played two games fewer than most other teams.

Bordeaux, at home to Lokomotiv Leipzig in a Cup Winners' Cup semifinal on Wednesday, lost top spot in the French League to Marseille who was indebted to two own goals by Sochaux striker Frank Sauze for a 4-0 margin on Saturday. Bordeaux, held 0-0 away by Paris-St-Germain, meets Marseille on Saturday in the match that may decide the league.

Italian interest in Europe has been extinguished, giving a higher profile than usual to the outcome of the league. Leader Napoli managed only a 0-0 draw with Empoli Sunday, allowing Internazionale to close to within four points of it by beating Como 1-0.

Diego Maradona's thoughts may have been elsewhere. Although he shone for Napoli, he was changed and showered in record time and on his way with a police escort to the airport to catch a Buenos Aires-bound plane to meet his newly-born daughter.

Poland downs Italy in hockey championships

CANAZEI, Italy (AP) — Poland defeated Italy 4-2 in the closing match of the B-Group World Ice Hockey Championships to qualify for the 1988 Winter Olympic Games in Calgary, Canada, along with Norway and Austria.

Poland topped the final standings of the eight-team, round-robin competition with 12 points. By beating Italy Sunday, Poland also gained a berth in the A-Group for the 1989 World Championships.

The fourth qualifier for the Winter Olympics next year will be decided by a play-off between France, which placed fourth here, and Japan, which won the C-Group championships. The play-off in Switzerland is scheduled to be played before the end of April.

Norway finished second in the overall standings, with 11 points, one ahead of third-place Austria. China was defeated by The Netherlands 7-2 in the final round of matches Sunday.

Madrid's Sanchez among 5 banned in Euro Cup

ZURICH (R) — Real Madrid's Mexican striker Hugo Sanchez, Spanish soccer's leading scorer this season, is among five players suspended from Wednesday's semifinal, first leg ties of the three European club competitions, UEFA confirmed Monday in a news release.

Real meets West Germany's Bayern Munich in the away leg of their Champions' Cup tie. One-match bans have been imposed by UEFA for two bookings on Sanchez, Porto's Antonio Vieira and Joaquim Azevedo, Borussia Moenchengladbach's Bernd Krauss and Alain Roche of Bordeaux.

English soccer fans fight extradition to Belgium

LONDON (AP) — Twenty-six English soccer fans began an appeal Monday against extradition to Belgium to face trial for alleged manslaughter in the 1985 Heysel Stadium disaster.

Lawyers representing the fans raised two legal technicalities which, they argued in the high court, must result in the quashing of extradition orders made last month.

The 26 fans, most backers of Liverpool, are charged with the manslaughter of Mario Rionchi, a supporter of the Italian club Juventus, at the May 29, 1985, European Champions Cup final between the two clubs at the Heysel Stadium in Brussels.

Fierce rioting at the game left 39 people dead, all but five of them Italians, and injured 276 others. The deaths occurred when a wall in the stands collapsed under the weight of Juventus fans trying to escape a mass onslaught by Liverpool supporters.

Attorney Michael Morland, representing nine of the fans, said he would not dwell on the "horror and tragedy" which occurred when a large number of Liverpool supporters behaved in an "utterly shameful way."

But, he argued, legal requirements should be strictly observed, "not least in this case because extradition is being sought for these English applicants to stand trial in a foreign land in accordance with foreign law."

The extradition orders, if upheld at the end of the appeal, will leave the final decision to British Home Secretary Douglas Hurd whether to return the defendants to Belgium where they face up to 15 years in prison if convicted.

Morland claimed the orders should be quashed because sufficient evidence to justify granting them at the request of the Belgian government had not been presented within two months of the fans' arrest.

He added that there was insufficient evidence to satisfy the court that the alleged offence constituted an extradition crime under both English and Belgian law. No expert evidence on Belgian law had been heard, Morland said, and therefore the court could not make any finding that the conduct alleged against the 26 constituted an offence which amounted to an "extradition crime" in Belgian law.

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LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midday on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets on Monday.

One sterling	1.6205/15	U.S. dollars
One U.S. dollar	1.3073/78	Canadian dollar
	1.8235/45	West German marks
	2.0585/95	Dutch guilders
	1.5175/85	Swiss francs
	37.76/79	Belgian francs
	6.0675/0725	French francs
	1299/1300	Italian lire
	146.10/20	Japanese yen
	6.3425/75	Swedish crowns
	6.875/8125	Norwegian crowns
	6.8800/50	Danish crowns
One ounce of gold	420.60/421.10	U.S. dollars

LONDON STOCK MARKET

LONDON (R) — Share prices added to Monday morning's gains after an early rise on Wall Street pushed the Dow Jones industrial average through 2,400 for the first time, dealers said.

Equities were underpinned from the outset by opinion polls in the weekend press which gave the ruling Conservative Party a commanding lead over its nearest rivals. But dealers said Friday's record advance on Wall Street helped fuel the firmer trend.

At 1430 GMT the FTSE 100 share index was up a net 25.8 points at 1,990.9, after opening 18.0 points up at 1,963.1.

Dealers said Monday's start to a long three-week account saw the market in bullish mood despite fears of a trade war between Britain and Japan.

This concern comes in the wake of last week's moves by the U.K. government. It created powers to take tough retaliation measures against Japanese banking and insurance companies on the grounds that similar British institutions do not enjoy the same freedom of access to the Japanese financial markets.

However, many operators doubt that either the British or Japanese governments will allow the conflict to become acrimonious.

YOUR DAILY Horoscope

from the Carroll Righter Institute

FORECAST FOR TUESDAY, APRIL 7, 1987

GENERAL TENDENCIES: You are able to complete arrangements for getting home and property matters together. Think about the policies you wish to express and your special creative views.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) See what can be done to get your home improved. Show your mate how devoted you are tonight.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20) It's a good time for dealing with outside contacts. The evening is fine for inviting friends over.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) Practical affairs can be made to work profitably. Be optimistic in writing notes to those close by.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to Jul. 21) Seek out new outlets for your personal existence. Contact one who has been very successful.

LEO (Jul. 22 to Aug. 21) Study a better course of activity through which you can gain your personal desires confidentially.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22) Team up with one who is sensitive and gain a favor that means much to you. Romance is in the air tonight.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) Complete that outlet and later put your energy toward gaining personal aims. Be with generous friends who can assist you.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) Make arrangements for the pleasure you have in mind. Plan how to have greater happiness in the future.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) Know how others expect you to keep promises made to them, and try to please them.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) Be alert to new opportunities for advancement and seize them enthusiastically.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19) Utilize your time wisely and get everything working in better order. Activate your personal ingenuity.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20) Plan to enjoy the pleasures you have liked in the past. Do something to gain more energy.

IF YOUR CHILD IS BORN TODAY... he, or she, will be an affectionate family member and also be very patriotic. Make sure to have friends come into the home since your progeny is apt to be quite introverted. Give as fine an education as you can. Upon adulthood, your progeny will be quite responsible.

U.S. official stresses importance of ties with Mideast

WASHINGTON (USIA) — U.S. economic and commercial relations with Arab nations are as important as U.S. political ties in the region, according to a State Department official.

Mr. Richard Murphy, assistant secretary of state for Near Eastern and South Asian affairs, addressed board members and friends of the U.S.-Arab Chamber of Commerce on its 20th anniversary last week.

Mr. Murphy praised the good work done by the chamber saying it has helped to make the U.S. system and those of the Arab states "less mystical to the international business community."

The assistant secretary said that the chamber's objective of greater Arab-American business cooperation and U.S. objectives in the Middle East support each other and "contribute directly to the political and economic security of the states of the region."

Following is the complete text of Mr. Murphy's speech:

I am pleased to have this opportunity to address members and friends of the U.S.-Arab Chamber of Commerce on its 20th anniversary. The chamber reflects in the business community what we strive for in the foreign policy community — a productive effort to strengthen U.S. relations with the Arab World. I congratulate the chamber for its achievements, including its business and cultural exchanges and trade missions.

Understanding different cultures and economic systems is not an easy task. The chamber has helped to make our system and those of the Arab states less mystical to the international business community.

Its work demonstrates graphically that our economic and commercial relations with Arab nations are equally important to our political ties; moreover, as our relations have become more wide-ranging, they have become more durable.

At your request, I will focus on economic links between the U.S. and the Arab World. But, since economic interests are intertwined with other foreign policy concerns, including the strategic and political stability of the region, let me begin with some thoughts on U.S.-Arab relations generally.

The United States pursues three fundamental objectives in the Middle East: To promote the security of Israel and moderate Arab states, secure Western access to the region's vital natural resources, and restrain Soviet presence and influence access to the area. Our objectives and yours of greater Arab-American business cooperation support each other and contribute directly to the political and economic security of the states of the region.

The modern world runs on energy. We have made impressive achievements during the past fifteen years in energy conservation and fuel switching. But oil remains the premier energy source. Moreover, despite the current excess supply, oil is a limited resource.

The countries of the Middle

East provide almost half of the oil flowing in world trade. They process about 70 per cent of the free world's proven oil reserves, oil that is cheaper to produce than anywhere else in the world.

There are those who say that the Middle East is no longer as important to the U.S. because of the current oversupply of oil.

They are wrong. The free world's dependence on Middle East oil is about the same today as it was at the end of the Eisenhower administration. And this dependence will increase appreciably during the coming decade.

Moreover, the Middle East has a strategic importance separate from its energy resources. The Gulf has been a target of international power politics for generations. Soviet control of this region — or its independent states — would have a dramatic adverse impact on the global balance of power.

More recently, the region has become the target of a different type of threat. The Iranian revolution has spawned a powerful force of Islamic radicalism, sometimes backed by terrorism, which is vigorously anti-Western and anti-American. And the tragic and senseless war between Iran and Iraq has persisted, threatening the stability of neighboring states and the pursuit of our interests in the region.

The administration would regard an expansion of the war as a threat against our interest and we are committed to support the individual and collective self-defense of the moderate Arab Gulf states.

Our strategic interests are reinforced by another consideration — that many of these states have long records of moderation and friendship with the United States. We have major political interests in these states, both in their own right and because of their influence with the region.

Although our political styles are different, and our relations have had their ups and downs, there has been an underlying compatibility of interests in a number of key areas.

Even on the question of Middle East peace, the most contentious issue over the history of our relations with this area, the majority of Arab states agree with us on the importance of moderation and dialogue. We believe — and have consistently maintained — that a just and lasting peace in the region can only be worked out through direct negotiations between Israel and her Arab neighbors. And we will persist in our efforts to help the parties involved work out the means by which these direct negotiations can be begun — and pursued successfully.

Now, let me turn to our economic ties with the Arab World, a critical dimension of our overall relations, where there has been — and remains — a strong commonality of interests. First a brief historical perspective:

In the 1960's and 1970's, petroleum imports dominated our commercial relations with the Middle East. Even in the period of low oil prices, many U.S. companies found the region a

potentially attractive market for a range of U.S. exports — civilian aircraft, construction equipment, consumer goods, foodstuffs, and machinery for business and light manufacturing. Non-oil investment in the Middle East grew modestly as U.S. companies — particularly those in financial and other service industries — established a presence in the region. This growth took place despite the lack of close historical relationship with many of these countries and in the absence of diplomatic representation in some of the smaller Gulf states.

Assistance to Jordan opens new opportunities

With the economic boom that followed the dramatic increase in oil prices in 1973, the region's demand for capital equipment and other goods increased dramatically. Many U.S. firms already in the region found themselves well-placed to take advantage of this rapidly growing market, and U.S. exports to the Middle East expanded rapidly.

Additionally the U.S. had close and historic ties to one of the largest markets — Saudi Arabia. And our foreign assistance to Egypt and Jordan offered U.S. businesses new opportunities in non-traditional markets. Our exports to the region increased tenfold between 1973 and 1982.

In 1982 the U.S. exported over \$18.2 billion in goods to the Arab World and imported over \$14.6 billion from the region. The Gulf was our third largest market — behind Canada and Japan.

Recent statistics show a more modest level of trade.

In 1986 two-way trade between the United States and the Arab countries of the Middle East was around \$17 billion. The \$9 billion in products purchased from the Middle East represented just over two per cent of total U.S. imports.

U.S. sales to the region were just over \$8 billion, around four per cent of U.S. exports. This decline reflects both the completion of infrastructure projects and the dramatic drop in the world price of oil, which, as we all know, has had an enormous impact on the economies of the region.

In 1986, revenues from the sale of oil and petrochemicals fell by more than 50 per cent in some Middle East countries, and real economic activity in the region declined by four to five per cent. Non-oil producers have suffered because of the decline in worker remittances and Arab aid, a fall off in tourism, and a weak market for phosphates and natural gas.

For some countries, these difficulties are compounded by excessive debt burdens accumulated when incomes were higher. Most governments have had to slash budgets — cutting back development expenditures and slashing imports.

Competition and challenges increase for U.S. businesses

As a result, U.S. businesses are encountering a more competitive and challenging business climate. What does this mean for the future of U.S.-Arab commercial

relations? I do not anticipate a dramatic recovery in the region in the near future. Oil prices will probably be less erratic in 1987 than in 1986, but variables relating to market forces, OPEC unity and developments in the Iran-Iraq war make predictions tenuous.

Most countries in the region will have to continue to make adjustments to counteract losses from the previous year in export revenues.

However, I am encouraged by the way in which Middle East countries are managing their adjustments. Many countries initially responded to economic pressures by instituting import controls and taking other protectionist measures. Recently, a number of countries have been trying to reverse this trend, calling for measures to liberalize their economies and make their industries more competitive.

For example, Bahrain is trying to establish a regional stock exchange.

Saudi Arabia is encouraging private investors to match the government's funding of development projects.

Tunisia and Morocco two countries, with long histories of state involvement in the economy, are undertaking major reforms under IMF structural adjustment programmes. Tunisia's economic adjustment programme includes measures to liberalize the import regime. Under its IMF programme, Morocco has committed itself to the gradual elimination of consumer subsidies by 1990. Both these countries are also taking steps toward closer association with the other trading nations by their efforts to join the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT).

Jordan wins praise

The government of Jordan is considering measures to privatize some of its state-owned companies.

The Egyptians, whose net oil revenues dropped from \$2.6 billion to \$600 million last year, are engaged in ongoing negotiations with the IMF and World Bank. We hope an IMF programme can be in place as early as mid-summer.

Even Algeria — with its socialist orientation — recently

passed a new, more attractive investment law and removed some restrictions on imports.

Hence, I think the overall trend is encouraging. While I don't foresee a return to the euphoric days of the oil boom, I see a potential for steady growth in our commercial relations as Middle East countries take steps to remove disincentives to trade and investment.

I don't mean to imply, of course, that the future of U.S.-Arab economic relations depends solely on the behaviour of Arab governments. There are obstacles on the U.S. side as well — and steps that the U.S. government and U.S. businesses can take to improve U.S. competitiveness.

The Reagan administration has gone a long way in putting the U.S. economy on a path of solid and sustained growth. We have brought inflation and high interest rates under control and restored incentives through changes in the tax system and reductions in government regulations, laying the groundwork for continued growth and low inflation in the future.

Nevertheless, we must continue to address the challenges presented by the U.S. trade deficit, which reached \$170 billion this year — an unsustainable level.

The administration is taking steps to reduce this deficit. The recent decline in the value of the dollar has already improved our competitive position. We will continue to make adjustments to reduce the budget deficit at home, while working to reduce unfair trade practices and barriers to trade that inhibit economic activity abroad.

Protective measures such as an oil import fee or a tariff on petrochemicals would not be a wise response. They would reduce national economic growth. They would injure our export industries, dependent on these products, and they would expose U.S. exporters to retaliation.

Politically, they would send the wrong signal to the same countries that are taking steps to remove barriers to trade and investment in their own economies. In this connection, I urge you to read the recent Department of Energy study on energy security, which shows that an oil import fee would damage the domestic economy without bolstering energy security.

A number of challenges remain — both on the U.S. and Arab side — but we are trying to work them out on a bilateral and multilateral basis.

We have concluded bilateral investment treaties with a number of countries, including Morocco and Egypt, and are discussing treaties with several others, including the GCC. Once signed and ratified, we believe these treaties will enhance the climate for American investment in those countries.

We are also engaged in formal dialogue with key economic policy-makers in many of these countries through our joint economic commissions.

One of the most promising elements of our economic relations is our growing dialogue with the countries of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC). Begun in late 1985, we have had three sessions covering a range of important subjects, including trade, investment, energy, and business facilitation.

As I said at the beginning of my remarks, the U.S. government has long-term and long-standing interests in the Middle East. The economic health of the region is important to us — both because of what it means to the U.S. economy and because it reinforces regional political stability in the region.

The U.S. government has taken a number of steps to promote the economic security of the region. These include our bilateral economic assistance, totalling almost \$3 billion in FY-87, and our efforts to improve economic cooperation through bilateral and multilateral dialogues.

In closing, let me reemphasize that our economic ties represent a complex network of relations and contacts among a host of organizations, companies, and individuals in the Arab World and the United States. The U.S. government — and Arab governments — play a vital role, but so do private companies and individuals.

The U.S.-Arab Chamber of Commerce has served an important function in encouraging and developing economic ties between U.S. and Arab businesses. I hope we can continue to count on your leadership in this vital area.

London warns of retaliation if Japan fails to open stock market to Britons

TOKYO (R) — British Corporate Affairs Minister Michael Howard warned Monday of retaliation against Japan if British firms are blocked from membership in the Tokyo stock exchange.

"If we don't get what we want, we shall use our reciprocity powers," Mr. Howard told reporters here.

Britain's Conservative government decided last Thursday to bring forward legislation allowing it to ban foreign banks and insurance firms from operating in London if their native country did not grant British firms reciprocal access.

Mr. Howard, who arrived Sunday for a half-week visit, said he had presented a timetable Monday for British access to the Tokyo exchange to both the Japanese finance ministry and the Japan Securities Dealers Association.

He declined to give details, but said he expected a positive response the next time senior officials from the two sides meet for regular financial talks, in May or June.

Six foreign firms hold seats on the exchange, but only one of them is totally British.

Finance ministry officials said

Vice Minister Toyoo Gyohten told Mr. Howard he would work towards expanding membership so that more foreign firms can get a seat on the exchange.

But Mr. Gyohten also stressed that the matter was ultimately for the stock exchange to decide, not the government, the officials said.

"So far I am encouraged by the response," Mr. Howard said, adding that he did not expect a definitive response to his timetable request immediately.

Mr. Howard is scheduled to meet exchange President Michio Takeuchi on Wednesday.

THE Daily Crossword

By Frank R. Jackson

ACROSS

- Protects
- Girl's best friend, maybe
- Famous box owner
- Ruler
- Against the law
- Shiny ornament
- Sharp
- Initiative sound in falling
- Computer fodder
- Time zone abbr.
- The Fox
- Mr. Brown
- Swagman
- Neat
- Hope's forte
- Malicious burner
- Single part
- Abuse
- Savior
- Peculiar
- Hackneyed
- Bulldog's site
- Cherical
- vestment
- Shielded from harm
- Leucist
- "September"
- Certain measure
- Years: Lat.
- Reptile
- Typical
- Showerer's need
- Specify by name
- Homel
- Declares

DOWN

- Extra large net
- Dumb
- Narrow
- Parasol
- Unhappy
- Ball's progress record
- Decorative hangings
- Change hope
- Malicious spirit
- Beastlike timber tree
- Repair
- Instrument
- Actor Nick
- Extreme fear
- Friend of Sam's King
- Believe
- Sit
- Performing pair
- Date occasions
- Derisive sound
- Slender dog
- Single
- Denoting the center
- get a spot
- My needle and thread
- Attempt
- Common abbr.
- Deluxe
- Scandinavian
- Male prur
- Jackal features
- Food fish
- Walk easily
- Sophia of the
- Whisker or eye
- Andee breast
- Walking
- Male prur
- Legal or combaceous
- Of a country: abbr.
- Canadian
- Johnson
- Article
- "For — a job"
- Printer's measures

Peanuts

WHY, YOU MAY ASK, SHOULD WE STUDY ABOUT DAYTIME AND NIGHTTIME?

THEY SAY THAT THE PERSONALITIES OF SOME BROTHERS AND SISTERS ARE AS DIFFERENT AS NIGHT AND DAY...

SO IF IT WEREN'T FOR NIGHT AND DAY, YOU WOULDN'T KNOW HOW DIFFERENT YOU ARE FROM YOUR BROTHER OR SISTER!

WHATEVER THAT MEANS...

Mutt'n' Jeff

JEFF! JULIUS! WHAT ARE YOU LITTLE GUYS DOING HERE?

OH, THEY HIRED US AS WAITERS FOR THE HOLIDAYS!

WE SERVE THE PEOPLE UNDER THE TABLES!

Andy Capp

AND WHEREVE YOU TILL THIS TIME?

SUCH A LOVELY NIGHT, I JUST KEPT ON WALKING. ALL THESE STARS MAKES YOU THINK HOW INSIGNIFICANT I AM.

I DON'T HAVE TO WALK MILES, SLEEPING UP IN THE SKY TO DISCOVER THAT!!

THE BETTER HALF

By Harris

HOLLER AT ME 50¢ PER MINUTE!

"Like the Beatles said, 'Take a sad song and make it better!'"

JUMBLE

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME by Henri Arnold and Bob Lee

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

PRUTE

NUGOY

NERUNG

RAYTLE

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Answer here: " — — — — — " (Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: SIXTY OPERA JUSTLY HITHER
Answer: When you open your mouth to yawn, it could be a hint to others to do this — SHUT THEM

U.S. reportedly investigating 10 more diplomatic missions

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — Ten other U.S. diplomatic missions, apart from the espionage-crippled embassy in Moscow, are being investigated by the State Department for possible security breaches, the Washington Post reported Monday.

The newspaper quoted two U.S. congressmen of the House Foreign Affairs Subcommittee. They were interviewed in Moscow as they arrived to start investigating disclosures that some Marine guards let Soviet agents roam the embassy at night.

Two Marines are currently facing espionage charges.

The Post said the two members of the House of Representatives, Daniel Mica, a Florida Democrat, and Olympia Snowe, a Maine Republican, did not name the 10 other missions being investigated both by the State Department and the Pentagon.

The two, together with six aides, flew to Moscow to assess the damage done to embassy security and consider remedial action.

Mr. Mica told the newspaper it would cost more than \$20 million

to replace cryptographic and other equipment believed to have been compromised by the security breaches.

He said communications at the embassy had moved back into the pre-electronic age, with messages being handwritten and flown out in a diplomatic pouch.

The new U.S. embassy in Moscow will never be secure and should be torn down and replaced at Soviet cost, the former vice chairman of the Senate Intelligence Committee said Sunday.

The arrest of two Marines, who were allegedly seduced by Soviet women and allowed KGB agents into the old embassy building in Moscow, has focused new attention on security at the adjacent American complex under construction.

Under a 1972 agreement, the U.S. government allowed the

new U.S. embassy building to be built by Soviet workers, with many prefabricated modules assembled off the site, away from American supervision.

"Our general contractor is the KGB for our embassy over there. When you come right down to the bottom line, that is what it is," said Sen. Patrick Leahy, a member of the opposition Democratic Party.

Listening devices have been found in the bricks and steel girders of the nearly completed office building, government officials say. In February, the State Department appointed James Schlesinger, the former defence secretary and CIA chief, to investigate.

"The fact is that this embassy can never, ever be made secure," Sen. Leahy said on the CBS television network programme, Face the Nation.

Sen. Leahy said the United States should "require payment from the Soviets for the damage that has been caused or not allow them to go into their own embassy in Washington."

Reagan, Mulroney clash over acid rain

OTTAWA (AP) — U.S. President Ronald Reagan was prodded by Canadian Prime Minister Brian Mulroney to enter negotiations leading to a treaty mandating controls and deadlines for curbing acid rain pollution.

However, the United States said it was standing pat with an already announced, five-year, \$2.5-billion clean-coal technology research programme.

Mr. Reagan and Mr. Mulroney met at a summit where their domestic political problems were a backdrop to nagging differences on trade and acid rain.

After an arrival ceremony Sunday, Mr. Reagan proceeded to Rideau Hall, the home of Governor General Jeanne Sauve, where he and Mr. Mulroney held their first session.

At a photo session preceding the talks, Mr. Reagan said, "I think we can make some progress" in the discussions, and added that "we both want an answer" to the acid rain issue.

In television interviews before Mr. Reagan's arrival, Mr. Mulroney urged tougher U.S. action on acid rain, calling for the U.S. Congress and Mr. Reagan to agree to "an enforceable treaty to make sure that the damage that is so devastating is arrested and stopped."

He said Mr. Reagan was sensitive to the problem "but obviously more has to be done."

Reporting on the leaders' private talks, U.S. spokesman Martin Fitzwater played down differences, saying Mr. Mulroney had expressed pleasure that Mr. Reagan was seeking the full \$2.5 billion for acid rain envisioned in an agreement last year.

"That's as far as we can go (on the problem) in this meeting," Mr. Fitzwater told reporters. "We think we're on the right course."

Accompanied only by notepackers, the two leaders conferred for 35 minutes. They agreed that U.S.-Canadian relations were "very good overall and that our ties are clearly on the upswing," Mr. Fitzwater said.

Mr. Reagan and Mr. Mulroney agreed to share research information on AIDS and said fighting the disease would be discussed at the seven-nation summit in Venice, Italy, this June.

On defence matters, where Mr. Reagan wants Canada to spend more, Mr. Reagan stressed the importance of all NATO members contributing their fair share, Mr. Fitzwater added.

At the picture-taking session with Mr. Mulroney, Mr. Reagan was asked about Canada's claim of sovereignty over the north west passage, Mr. Mulroney interjected, "I have said it is ours, lock, stock and barrel. That's a question of sovereignty, and that position is unchanged."

The United States maintains the passage is an international waterway.

Both sides said in advance no agreements or joint statements would be produced during Mr. Reagan's 24-hour visit.

Former Marcos aide charged over killing of Aquino

MANILA (R) — Eleven people, including a minister in the cabinet of deposed President Ferdinand Marcos, were charged Monday with the 1983 murder of opposition leader Benigno Aquino.

Former Tourism Minister Jose Aspas and 10 others pleaded not guilty to charges that they took part in a plot to murder Sen. Aquino, the husband of current President Corason Aquino, and Rolando Galman, the man the army said shot Sen. Aquino at Manila airport on Aug. 21, 1983.

The charges against the 11 men raises to 40 the number implicated in the assassination of the former senator, an arch rival of Marcos, on his return from self-imposed exile in the United States.

Marcos' Information Minister, Gregorio Candiano, and two soldiers were also charged. Court officials said they said the men did not appear in court. Mr. Candiano was in the United States and the soldiers could not be found.

Prosecutors have brought charges against 40 people, 36 of them soldiers, since the supreme court ordered the reopening of the murder cases after a special commission concluded last year that a previous trial two years ago was a sham.

The 1985 trial cleared Marcos' military chief Fabian Ver and 25 others originally accused of involvement in the murders. The commission, set up by the supreme court, said Marcos put the judges under pressure to hand down acquittals.

Cuban prisoners arrive in U.S.

WASHINGTON (AP) — Cuba has allowed 20 former long-term political prisoners to emigrate to the United States in the past 10 weeks, sending them at the rate of two a week in an apparent attempt to avoid publicity, U.S. officials say.

The officials said the piecemeal approach appeared aimed at eliminating the reputations that accompanied large-scale prisoner releases in the past, prompting extensive media attention.

The Havana government also may have been intent on keeping the prisoner issue out of the spotlight at a time when the

United States was trying to use the U.N. Human Rights Commission to call attention to alleged rights abuses in Cuba, the officials said.

All 20 Cubans were released from prison last May following a personal appeal to President Fidel Castro by French undersea explorer Jacques Cousteau, who visited Cuba in late 1985.

The last two of the 20 arrived Wednesday aboard a weekly charter flight that operates between Miami and Havana. The other 18 arrived on earlier charter flights.

15 people injured in Malta during pre-election clashes

VALLETTA (R) — At least 15 people were taken to hospital, many with gunshot wounds, after clashes between supporters of rival political parties in the run-up to Maltese general elections, sources close to the police have said.

Sources in the ruling Labour Party said many of those injured Sunday were their supporters who were ambushed and fired on by rival factions near the village of Zebbug as they were returning in a procession of cars from a party rally.

Among them was Deputy Prime Minister Wistin Abela who was not injured, the party sources said.

The same sources said a number of cars were overturned and set on fire. Stones, bottles and other objects were hurled by the rival groups in one of the worst incidents since Labour and National-

ist Party supporters clashed at Zejtun last November when shots were fired and the police used tear gas.

Elections for the 65-seat parliament will take place on May 9 after the house was dissolved in February at the end of a five-year term. Labour won 34 seats and the Nationalists 31 in the last election.

Another clash, this time between police and Nationalist Party supporters, occurred in the evening at the town of Rabat shortly after the end of a mass rally addressed by Nationalist leader Dr. Edward Fenech Adami.

Eyewitnesses said baton-wielding police clashed with the supporters and during the disturbance the Nationalist Party club was set on fire and badly damaged. Several people were reported injured.

U.K. spy book appeal to be heard on July 6

SYDNEY (R) — Britain's appeal against an Australian court ruling allowing a former British spy-catcher to publish his memoirs will be heard on July 6, the appeal court said Monday.

A panel of three judges will hear Britain's argument that Peter Wright is under a life-long obligation to keep silent about his counter-espionage work for MI-5.

Court officials said the hearing was expected to last five or six days and would finally decide the fate of Wright's book, which deals mainly with alleged Soviet penetration of the British Secret Service.

Wright's publishers, Heinemann Australia, have agreed to withhold publication until the end of the hearing before the New South Wales appeal court.

The British High Commission in a statement last month said the appeal would claim that one of the terms of employment accepted by Wright was that he would not speak or write about his work without authority.

State supreme court Judge Philip Powell "was wrong in accepting Wright's contention" that the material in his proposed book Spycatcher had lost its confidentiality because of similar previous publications, it said.

Mr. Powell, in a 275-page judgement at the end of a lengthy hearing on March 13, ordered the British government to pay all legal costs and said Wright could lodge a claim for damages.

Wright, 71, has been living in Australia's southern island state of Tasmania since retiring from MI-5 in 1976.

Swiss back tighter immigration controls

BERN, Switzerland (AP) — Swiss voters, reacting to a flow of Third World refugees to the West's wealthiest country, came out strongly in favour of tighter immigration controls in a referendum Sunday that was closely watched by other European countries.

The nationwide vote was 2-1 in support of regulations the government said would facilitate admission of victims of persecution while keeping out those merely seeking economic betterment.

In another decision, also unique under the Swiss system of direct democracy, voters rejected a Socialist proposal that would have given them the final say on any defence credits.

The country has not fought in international wars for more than four centuries, but the 620,000-man militia army has strong popular backing.

The 3-2 margin was less lopsided than forecast, however, apparently reflecting statistically backed surveys that the Swiss are among the thriftiest people in the world.

The asylum regulations were the focus of public debate in the country, birthplace of the Red Cross and other international humanitarian organisations.

They will take force on Oct. 1, eight years after parliament adopted a liberal law that was followed by sharp surge in the number of seekers of political asylum. The numbers soared

from about 1,000, mostly from Communist Eastern Europe, to almost 10,000 in 1985, predominantly from Asia and Africa.

Last month, authorities registered 980 arrivals, chiefly Turks, Tamils from Sri Lanka and Iranians. This compared with 370 new asylum seekers in March 1986.

Under the new legislation, the government has emergency powers to limit the granting of asylum if the influx of refugees reaches "extraordinary" proportions. Asylum must be requested at 25 designated border points, a measure intended to thwart professional frontier-runners.

Refugees, who often arrive without identity papers, will have to have their fingerprints taken to prevent them from submitting asylum requests — and drawing welfare payment — in several Swiss cantons and under different names.

Foreigners whose asylum requests are turned down and who fail to leave the country within a specified period can be jailed for up to 30 days prior to their deportation to make sure they do not go underground.

Swiss Justice Minister Elisabeth Kopp, tagged "iron lady" by opponents of the law, said the vote showed the Swiss believed something had to be done. Other Western European countries have also been tightening immigration policies.

Indonesian students urged to demand their rights

JAKARTA (R) — Students should demand their political rights and not be afraid to protest against injustice, Indonesia's Foreign Minister Mochtar Kusumaatmadja said in a campaign trip to the university city of Bandung.

The leading daily Kompas quoted Mr. Mochtar Monday as saying that one of the weaknesses of people in Indonesia is that "they never ask for their rights in a strong way and seem to accept anything that happens."

People never protest when government imposes too much of a burden on their shoulders, he said, in a campaign appearance for the governing Golkar Party Sunday. "But protest is important for people to realise their rights."

Indonesia's 94 million registered voters go to the polls on April 23 for the first time in five years, to elect 400 members of parliament. Another 100 seats in parliament are reserved for military appointees.

All three legal parties have been making strong pitches to students and young people, who

form one of the nation's biggest electoral blocs. The government estimates about 12 million young people are eligible to vote for the first time.

But on visits to campuses on Java, Reuters correspondents found students apathetic and cynical about this month's poll.

Jokes going around the campuses refer to the general election as a "general selection" or "election of generals" in reference to the preponderance of active and retired military people in the government.

The government party has won the past three elections with majorities approaching two-thirds of the vote, and is aiming to get 70 per cent this time round.

Golkar Chairman Sudharmono, addressing the issue of student political rights at the weekend, said the government would continue to ban debates over "practical politics" on campuses.

The ban was imposed on campuses after students at universities throughout Java rioted before President Suharto's re-election in 1978.

Indo-Bangladesh insurgency talks end without agreement

DHAKA (R) — Bangladesh and India failed to reach an agreement at the end of talks in Dhaka Monday on ways of ending a guerrilla war in southern Bangladesh and repatriating thousands of refugees.

Leaders of the two sides told journalists the main issues of ending the insurgency by Shanti Bahini (peace force) rebels and the repatriation from India of tribesmen who have fled the war could only be resolved at higher levels of government.

An official announcement at the end of a three-day meeting between the directors-general of Indian para-military Border Security Force and Bangladesh Rifles said the two men "agreed to cooperate in resolving the issues in a spirit of friendship and cordiality."

More than 1,000 people have been killed since the Shantis launched their guerrilla campaign in 1973 seeking autonomy of the 14,200-square kilometre Chittagong Hill Tracts.

Bangladesh says about 26,000 Chakma tribesmen have fled to India's north-eastern state of Tripura and are living in refugee camps. India says the figure is much higher.

Indian Border Security Force Chief Mahesh Chandra Misra denied a charge by Bangladesh that guerrillas were operating from Tripura.

"We have nothing to do with Shanti Bahini, but we are trying to prevent the Chakmas from crossing into India," he told journalists.

Maj.-Gen. Sofi Ahmad Choudhury of the Bangladesh Rifles said he was happy with the outcome of the meeting.

"We have emphatically told our Indian friends that the conditions in the hill tracts are favourable and the Chakmas can return without any fear," he said.

Misra said: "I don't really know if conditions in the hill tracts are peaceful. I have to believe what my Bangladeshi friend says."

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WHO bans smoking at HQ

GENEVA (AP) — Smoking will be banned starting Tuesday at the Geneva headquarters of the World Health Organisation (WHO), one year after a WHO report described the habit as the "major avoidable cause of ill health." A WHO statement said the "ban, marking World Health Day, was intended to set an example of ensuring a smoke-free environment and business institutions such as schools, factories, government and business premises, and hospitals." It cited evidence that involuntary exposure to tobacco smoke is also harmful to the health of non-smokers. A 1985 WHO study said passive smoking poses some risk of cancer. WHO spokesman Gino Levi said that non-smokers make up more than two-thirds of the 1,300-member staff at headquarters. The ban will apply to all offices except a small eighth-floor lounge. A 1986 WHO report estimated that tobacco use caused at least one million premature deaths each year worldwide and described cigarette smoking as the "major avoidable cause of ill health and premature mortality in the countries where it is widespread." International surveys have emphasised that consumption of cigarettes have gone up in Third World countries.

Death row prisoner goes into coma

TOKYO (AP) — The world's longest-serving death row prisoner, a 95-year-old man convicted of killing 12 bank employees 39 years ago, went into a coma Sunday in a medical detention house, the Justice Ministry said. Doctors could barely feel the pulse of Sadamichi Hirasawa, said a ministry official, who spoke on condition of anonymity. He said Hirasawa entered a coma after doctors operated on his lungs Sunday afternoon to try to cure a breathing problem. Hirasawa has been in jail since 1948 and has been on death row since 1955, when the supreme court upheld his conviction. For reasons never made public, no justice minister ever has put his seal on an order for Hirasawa's hanging. Meanwhile, his lawyers and a "save Hirasawa committee" have filed 17 appeals. They insist he is innocent and that his long wait on death row amounts to torture. In January 1948, a man posing as a government health officer walked into a Tokyo bank and talked clerks and others into drinking tea cups full of potassium cyanide. When they collapsed, the man robbed about \$600 from the bank. Twelve people, including a child, died of poisoning. Six months later, police arrested Hirasawa. He confessed after hours of intensive interrogation, but retracted the confession and proclaimed his innocence at his trial.

Mormon leaders urge marital fidelity

SALT LAKE CITY (AP) — Mormon leaders urged followers Sunday to shun the "talk show mentality" of modern society and help restore traditional values by teaching their children honesty, chastity and marital fidelity. Church members also were admonished to study the Book of Mormon, one of four books Mormons regard as scripture, and to pattern their lives after the example of Jesus Christ. The sermon, delivered in the Tabernacle on Temple Square, ended the two-day 157th Annual General Conference of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints. Elder Neal A. Maxwell of the Council of the Twelve, told church members that by rooting their lives in the teachings of Jesus, they could protect their families from moral corruption and intellectual confusion. The council of the Twelve assists the governing first presidency in directing the church. "If settled, we will not be tossed to and fro by rumors, false doctrines, or by the behavioural and intellectual fashion of the world," Maxwell said. "Nor will we get caught up in the talk show mentality, spending our time to tell or hear some new thing." The church reported on Saturday that during 1986, its 32,000 missionaries baptised 216,210 people, the highest number in five years. The church, founded in 1830, has 6.2 million members.

Queen's cousin, listed as dead, still lives

LONDON (AP) — A first cousin of Queen Elizabeth II, listed in a leading social register as dying in 1961, is a long-term patient at a hospital for the mentally disabled, a hospital spokesman said Monday. Katherine Bowes-Lyon, 60, a niece of Queen Mother Elizabeth, has been a resident of Royal Earlswood Hospital in Redhill, south of London, since 1941, the spokesman said. Her sister, Norah Bowes-Lyon, who died last year aged 67 after spending much of her life as a patient in the same hospital, also has been listed as dead in every edition of Burke's Peerage, the British Bluebloods' Bible, since 1963. The 160-year-old reference book to the nation's aristocracy, which went into voluntary liquidation in December, lists Ms. Bowes-Lyon dying in 1940, said the Publishing Director Harold Brooks-Baker. Buckingham Palace, the queen's residence, could not be reached for comment early Monday. The hospital was responding to a report about the sisters that appeared in Monday editions of the Sun, Britain's top-selling newspaper, under a front-page banner headline, "Queen's cousin locked in madhouse." Katherine Bowes-Lyon has been a resident at this hospital since 1941, said the hospital spokesman, who spoke on condition he was not identified.

Australians protest AIDS campaign

SYDNEY (R) — Australia launched a shock campaign against AIDS Monday featuring the "grim reaper", a Western image of the ghostly messenger of death, cutting down his victims without mercy. The "grim reaper", a skeleton covered in a tattered dark cloak with a scythe over his shoulder, made his appearance on television as part of scare tactics to bring awareness of AIDS (acquired immune deficiency syndrome) into Australian homes. But the television message brought a flood of public protests, with many claiming that it was too horrific for children to watch. The head of Australia's largest AIDS clinic, Dr. Julian Gold, said: "The advertisement certainly gives people a scare, but there is little information in it." A government survey, published to coincide with the launch of the campaign, said one in eight Australians were in danger of getting the killer disease unless they changed their sex habits. The campaign calls for a six-week media blitz to drive home the message that there cannot be a promiscuous society without AIDS. Latest official statistics show that 238 Australians have died of AIDS since the first known case here in 1983. Doctors warn that Australia could have 3,000 AIDS victims by 1990. The government campaign, estimated to cost three million dollars (\$2.1 million), seeks to make people more aware of the disease. "Everyone must now reassess their sexual values," said the chairman of the National Advisory Committee on AIDS, Ita Buttrose.

Conductor denies terrorising musicians

TEL AVIV (R) — Conductor Zubin Mehta has denied the accusation of a demoted viola player in the Israel Philharmonic Orchestra that he terrorises musicians, Haaretz newspaper has reported. "As to the claim that I plot or inflict terror on the musicians, making them afraid to speak — a musical director who frightens an orchestra cannot make music with it," Mehta told Haaretz in a telephone interview from his Los Angeles home. Aryeh Yisraeli, 60, a viola player demoted recently as section conductor, accused Mehta in the Tel Aviv labour court of breaking the spirit of the orchestra and causing heart attacks in some musicians. "If Aryeh Yisraeli claims musicians became ill because of me, he has to prove who they are and how I caused their illness," said Mehta, conductor of the Israel Philharmonic for 25 years and of the New York Philharmonic since 1978. "This orchestra is a democracy. Its musicians are not afraid to have their voices heard and do not hide their opinions. If they had a feeling I did something unjust, I would hear it from friends and colleagues alike." Indian-born Mehta, 50, said Yisraeli was removed as section conductor because the quality of playing, power of concentration and his ability to guide the section had lessened in recent years. Yisraeli, a musician with the orchestra since the age of 17, is asking the court to restore him to the section conductor's job or pay him \$250,000 severance money.

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN

AND OMAR SHARIF

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DEAR MR. GOREN

Q.—A takeout double by an opponent always throws me out of kilter. I am never sure how to respond to partner's opening bid. Can you give me some basic advice? — L.A., Raleigh, Va.

A.—What you want me to tell you in a column could easily fill a book. As a matter of fact, there are several volumes devoted largely to this facet of bidding.

First and foremost, you must have some way of telling partner the hand belongs to you and you might want to double the opponents. The bid reserved for that is redouble, and you make it on all good hands, i.e., 11 points or better.

You might or might not have a fit for partner's suit. In any event, the redouble asks partner to let you have the next shot in the auction unless he can make a penalty double. If you do not have support for partner's suit, you will either double or else bid no trump or your own suit. If you do have support for partner and a hand equivalent to an opening bid, you will support his suit.

What do you do with weaker hands? The modern tendency is to ignore the double and make the bid you would have made had you had a better hand. Thus, any one-level response by you, except for one no trump, would be forcing for one round on opener. A

single raise of partner's suit shows at least three-card support and 6-10 points.

Bids at the two-level, whether the cheapest bid available or a jump, are preemptive. So a jump raise of partner's suit. A response of one no trump could be made on a hand which contains a four-card major, since it is likely that your side does not have a 4-4 major-suit fit in an unbid suit.

What's the difference between a single raise and a jump raise of opener's suit? The single raise is a better hand defensively. The jump raise is made on more distributional hands that do not have much in the way of defense. Consider these two hands.

A. ♠7 ♠K95 ♠J65 ♠10982

B. ♠9 ♠QJ76 ♠J103 ♠9842

If partner opens the bidding with one heart and the next hand doubles, bid two hearts with hand A and three hearts with hand B.

That leaves one type of hand with which we have not dealt: hands with four-card support for opener's suit worth 10-12 points; in other words, hands on which you would have made a limit raise had there been no bid-in. These are covered by a conventional bid—a jump to two no trump. You don't need that bid in the natural sense because you can show these hands by first redoubling and then bidding no trump.